

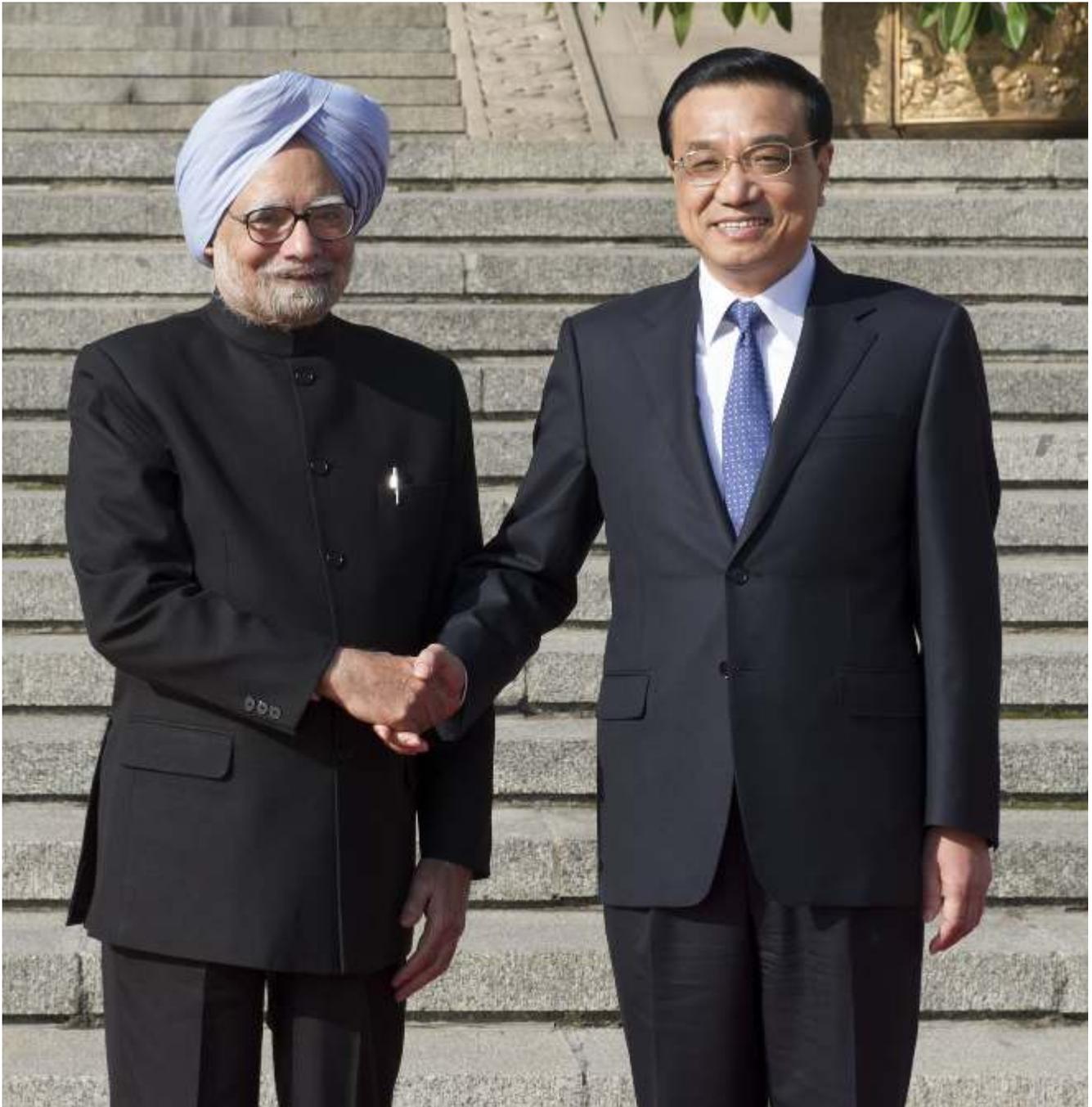
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Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh during a welcome ceremony for Singh before their talks in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 23, 2013.



Mr. Cai Mingzhao, Minister of the State Council Information Office of China, was in the Ceremony of Presenting Books by China to the University of Mumbai on Sept. 17, 2013.



Chinese Ambassador to India Mr. Wei Wei and the Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy of India Dr. Farooq Abdullah were on the Ceremony of the sixty-fourth Chinese National Day held in New Delhi on Sept, 29, 2013.



Chinese Ambassador to India Mr. Wei Wei was celebrating China's National Day with some friends of India-China Friendship Association in New Delhi on Sept, 26, 2013.



Indian friends were watching the "Beautiful China Exhibition" held in New Delhi by the Chinese Embassy in India and China National Tourism on Sept. 28, 2013.



Artists were performing at the cultural evening named as China-India Cultural Extravaganza 2013 which was organised by Chinese Embassy and India China Economic and Cultural Council in New Delhi on Sept. 28, 2013.



China won the Best Destination Award on the 9th Hospitality India and Explore the World Annual Awards Ceremony which was held in New Delhi on Oct, 11, 2013.

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I. CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS

Chinese President Says World Needs China-India Common Development

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said the world needs the common development of China and India, in a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here on Wednesday.

Xi said Singh is an old friend of the Chinese people and he has made important contributions to the development of China-India relations.

He praised Singh as a senior politician who started economic reform in the 1990s and helped India to make remarkable progress.

The president recalled his last meeting with Singh in Durban, South Africa, during which they reached an important consensus on bilateral relations.

China and India have a long history of ancient civilizations and are the two largest developing countries in the world, said Xi, noting that the two account for more than one third of the world's people.

The China-India relations have gone far beyond the bilateral level and are taking on a global and strategic significance, said Xi.

He agreed with Singh that there is enough space in the world for India and China to



Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd R) and his wife Peng Liyuan (R) pose for photo with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (2nd L) and his wife Gursharan Kaur after their meeting in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 23, 2013. (Xinhua/Pang Xinglei)

achieve common development and said he believes the world needs the common development of the two nations.

As one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world, China-India ties do not only benefit the two peoples, but have a profound impact on the development of Asia and the world, said the president.

Currently, bilateral relations have maintained comprehensive and rapid development and have entered an ascending period, he said, adding that China had always

viewed India as a strategic partner and rejoices in India's achievements.

He said China hopes to work with India on common development featuring peace and cooperation, increasing strategic mutual trust along with the international trend.

The two sides should strengthen cooperation on international and regional issues as well as within the framework of multilateral mechanisms, so as to safeguard common interests and push for the establishment of international relations featuring equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness, mutual learning, cooperation and win-win, he said.

The two sides should deepen pragmatic cooperation and push forward bilateral relations along with the demands of domestic development, he said.

The top priority of both countries is the economy and improving people's lives, he said, suggesting the two sides deepen cooperation in infrastructure construction, information technology, telecommunication, investment and industrial parks.

China's western development campaign and India's "Look East" policy should be combined to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, he added.

The president called on the two sides to properly manage and control their differences and push forward the bilateral ties along with the rejuvenation course of both countries.

Both China and India need a good international and surrounding environment, he said, calling on the two sides to accommodate each other's concerns, properly deal with issues concerning borders and trans-border rivers, and enhance cooperation

on defense as well as combating terrorism.

Xi also suggested the two sides expand communication and dialogue, along with the revitalization of oriental civilization.

Xi asked Singh to extend his greetings to Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and President of the Indian National Congress Party Sonia Gandhi.

Singh echoed Xi saying he will convey his greetings to Mukherjee and Gandhi. He said the relationship with China is a "high priority" in India's foreign policy.

Singh said India and China share a deep traditional friendship and broad common interests, and have huge potential for cooperation.

Their enhanced cooperation has great significance to both countries, Asia and the world, he said.

India is ready to work with China to further strengthen strategic communication and people-to-people exchanges, enhance defense cooperation, properly handle differences through friendly negotiations, and reinforce coordination in international and regional affairs, so as to jointly cope with challenges and advance bilateral ties, said Singh.

He congratulated China for its great achievements, noting that the China Dream and the India Dream are closely related.

India and China will be an unstoppable force in promoting world peace and development by working together, said the prime minister.

Before the meeting, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Singh on Wednesday morning. The two prime ministers also witnessed the signing of nine documents after the talks.

Chinese Premier Holds Talks with Indian PM

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held talks with visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the Great Hall of the People on Wednesday morning.

During the talks, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and other issues of common interest.

This is the second time this year that the heads of government of the two countries have met following Li's visit to India in May. It is the first time since 1954 that a Chinese premier and his Indian counterpart have met in each other's country in the same year.

Singh arrived in Beijing on Tuesday night for a three-day official visit to China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet with the Indian prime minister. Top legislator



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L) holds a welcome ceremony for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh before their talks in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 23, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

Zhang Dejiang will also meet with Singh.

The Indian prime minister will deliver a speech at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Chinese Premier Hails Singh's Visit as "Landmark" Event

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday hailed Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to China as a "landmark" event in bilateral relations, which will inject new impetus to ties between the two countries.

"This is another high-level visit between China and India after my visit to India in May, and it is the first time since 1954 that the Chinese premier and Indian prime minister

visit each other in the same year," Li said during talks with Singh.

Li said the Indian government and people have effectively responded to the recent powerful tropical cyclone in the country's east, which caused deaths and property losses. He expressed condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims and those affected.

Li also thanked India for successfully

rescuing 17 Chinese ship crew members near waters off India's eastern coastline earlier this month.

Singh recalled his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Durban in March on the sidelines of a BRICS summit and Li's visit to India in May.

Singh said Li's visit to India in his maiden trip shows the importance that the new Chinese leadership attaches to its ties with India.

Singh arrived in Beijing on Tuesday night for a three-day official visit to China.

President Xi and top legislator Zhang Dejiang will also meet with Singh separately.

The Indian prime minister will deliver a



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L) holds a welcome ceremony for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh before their talks in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 23, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

speech at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Chinese Premier Minister says: China and India are Capable of Managing Border Disputes

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Wednesday that Chinese and Indian governments are capable of managing border disputes and he hopes the disputes will not affect overall bilateral relations.

Addressing a press briefing together with visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after their meeting, Li said they both believe the two countries have more common interests than disagreements and the people and governments of the two countries have the ability to manage border disputes.

After the meeting, China and India signed a memorandum of understanding on

strengthening cooperation on trans-border rivers, and they agreed to cooperate through an existing mechanism between experts in the two countries.

Li urged the two countries' special representatives on border issues to maintain communication and discuss a fair and reasonable solution acceptable for both sides.

Li also emphasized that the two sides should faithfully implement relevant agreements and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in border areas.

China and India are among the biggest developing countries and are the most dynamic emerging markets, Li said, adding

that China-India ties enjoy great development potential and the bilateral relationship is one of the most important in the 21st century.

Li said that China is willing to work with India to benefit 2.5 billion people and make

more efforts for world peace, development and cooperation, adding that the two sides will further increase political trust, promote pragmatic cooperation and strengthen cultural exchanges.

Chinese Premier: Talks with Indian PM "Fruitful"

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said Wednesday that he and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had in-depth talks on enhancing mutual trust and cooperation, reaching fruitful results.

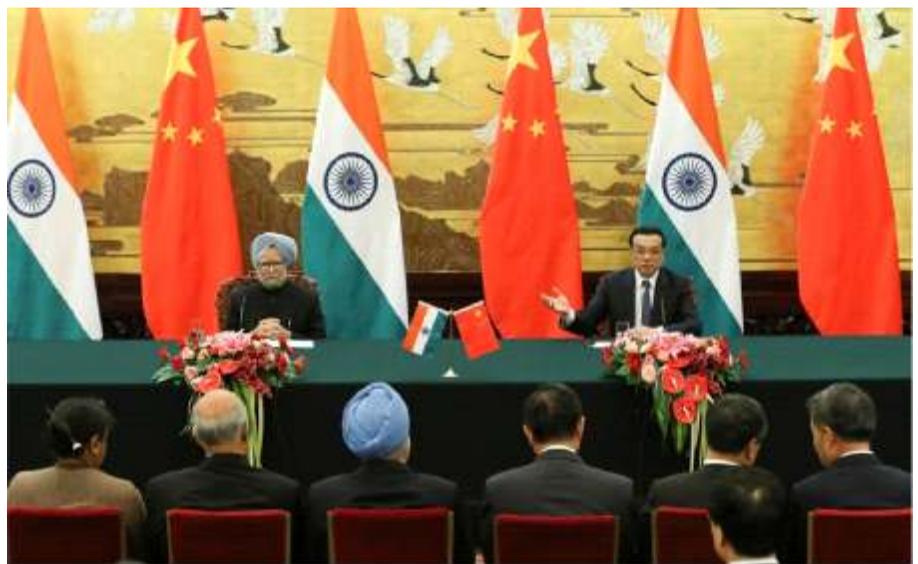
Li made the remarks to the press together with Singh after holding talks and attending the signing ceremony of a set of documents on Wednesday morning in the Great Hall of the People.

He said the two countries agreed to maintain the momentum of regular contacts and exchange of high-level visits.

The two sides will issue a joint statement on the future development of the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership later on Wednesday, the premier added.

They also signed an agreement on border defense cooperation, which would be conducive to the peace and stability of border areas, according to Li.

He also mentioned that China and India



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R fear) and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh attend a joint press conference in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 23, 2013. (Xinhua/Ding Lin)

agreed to hold a joint counter-terrorism exercise in southwest China, and to launch a dialogue of maritime cooperation at an early date.

On economic and trade cooperation, the two sides agreed to make full use of the mechanism on strategic and economic dialogue so as to advance cooperation on trade and investment together.

China would like to enhance cooperation with India on infrastructure construction, including railways, so as to push forward the development of the BCIM (Bangladesh,

China, India and Myanmar) Economic Corridor, he said.

The leaders also discussed the construction of a Chinese industrial park in India so as to ease the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Regarding cultural and people-to-people exchange, Li said China and India will make 2014 a Year of Friendly Exchange. They will also discuss with Myanmar ways of commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (known in India as the Panchsheel Treaty).

In addition, the two leaders witnessed the signing of an agreement on three sister cities.

Li described this as “a new breakthrough in the bilateral friendly exchange,” and a move that “will surely promote local and people-to-people cooperation between the two countries.”

Singh arrived in Beijing on Tuesday night for a three-day official visit to China. This is

the second time that Li and Singh have met since the former’s visit to India in May.

It is the first time since 1954 that a Chinese premier and an Indian prime minister have exchanged visits within the same calendar year.

“Both leaders fully recognized the important roles of China and India in the world and agreed that China-India relations are one of the most important bilateral ties in the world,” said Luo Zhaohui, director-general of the Asian Department of the Foreign Ministry of China, after attending the closed-door talks.

The population of China and India, two major emerging countries and populous countries, accounts for a third of the world’s population, he noted, telling journalists, “The prosperity of China and India will be the prosperity of a third of the world’s population.”

Chinese Top Legislator Meets with Indian Prime Minister

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — Chinese top legislator Zhang Dejiang met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday and they agreed to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), said during the meeting that China and India were close neighbors, enjoying a history of friendly contact.

“The two countries have enhanced communication and achieved cooperative results in various fields,” Zhang said, adding that beneficial cooperation and friendly contacts between the two populous nations benefitted the two peoples and brought peace



Zhang Dejiang (R), chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), meets with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 23, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

and stability to the world and the region.

Noting that the NPC has positive channels of communication and cooperation with Lok Sabha (the lower house of Indian Parliament), Zhang said the NPC is willing to promote the China-India strategic cooperative partnership through its communication with Lok Sabha and advance pragmatic cooperation, strengthening the friendship between the

peoples.

Singh said bilateral relationship was maturing and noted that the two countries were partners rather than rivals.

He said close communication between the two countries' legislative bodies had greatly advanced bilateral ties and the two sides should increase exchanges to build a brighter future.

China, India to Expedite Talks on Industrial Zones

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — China and India agreed to expedite talks on establishment of industrial zones, according to a joint statement issued here Wednesday.

The industrial zones aims to provide platforms of cluster type development for enterprises of the two countries, according to the joint statement, issued on the sidelines of talks between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and his visiting Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh.

The statement, also named A Vision for Future Development of China-India Strategic and Cooperative Partnership, said the two leaders recognized that China and India are poised to enter a new stage of economic engagement based on pragmatic cooperation and mutually advantageous policies and practices.

The leaders expected the Strategic Economic Dialogue scheduled for November/December 2013 to work out specific projects and initiatives in areas that have already been broadly agreed upon, said the joint statement.

“The Joint Economic Group will continue to expand the bilateral economic cooperation and promote a balanced growth of bilateral trade. Its Working Groups will expeditiously discharge the mandate given to them in pursuit of those objectives,” the statement noted.

The two sides agreed to look into the prospects of a bilateral Regional Trade Arrangement (RTA). They will also review the state of the negotiation on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), according to the statement.

China, India to Continue Efforts on Boundary Question, Promote Defense Exchanges

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — China and India will continue their efforts to explore a

framework for the settlement of the border issue, according to a joint statement issued

here Wednesday.

The Joint Statement - A Vision for Future Development of China-India Strategic and Cooperative Partnership, was issued amid Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's official visit to China.

Special Representatives, who have been charged with exploring a framework of settlement of the China-India boundary question, were encouraged by the two leaders to continue their efforts in that direction, the statement said.

Peace and tranquility on the China-India border was recognized as an important guarantor for the development and continued growth of bilateral relations, it added.

Building on previous agreements signed in 1993, 1996 and 2005 that recognize the principle of mutual and equal security, the

two countries signed a Border Defense Cooperation Agreement, according to the statement.

The agreement will will strengthen maintenance of stability on the border, it said.

The two countries will also further promote cooperation on defense exchanges and military exercises, as they will hold a counter-terrorism exercise in November 2013.

Defense exchanges and military exercises are important in building greater trust and confidence, the statement said, adding that the holding of the counter-terrorism exercise underlines the shared desire of both Governments to enhance mutual understanding.

Exchanges and visits agreed upon by the Defence Ministers of the two countries in July 2013 will be implemented step by step, it said.

India-China Ties a "Strategic Vision": Indian PM

Beijing, Oct. 23 (Xinhua) — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in Beijing on Wednesday that India and China have resolved to realize the full prominence of their partnership and maintain friendly relations.

"This will be our strategic vision," Singh said at a press briefing together with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang after their talks in the morning.

Singh said he and Premier Li have concluded a very productive round of talks and reached an important understanding on a number of matters.

"First and foremost, we agreed that the prosperity and progress of 2.5 billion Indian and Chinese people will be a major factor of Asian resurgence and global prosperity and stability," Singh said.

Second, he said, he and Li agreed that peace and tranquility in the two countries' border areas must remain the foundation for the growth of the India-China relationship even as they move negotiations toward a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement to the India-China boundary question. Singh described this as "our

strategic benchmark.”

Third, Singh said, they agreed that the relationships pursued by India and China with other countries must not become a source of concern for each other. This will be a strategic reassurance, according to the prime minister.

He suggested to premier Li the need to enhance mutual trust, expand common interest and deepen mutual understanding.

To build mutual trust, both sides have agreed to enhance transparency and strengthen strategic communications at all levels, including on the shared neighborhood. Singh proposed expanding cooperation on transborder rivers, and encouraging and institutionalizing greater exchanges between the two countries’ armed forces.

He said the agreement on border defence cooperation added to the existing instruments to ensure peace, stability and predictability on the borders.

According to Singh, Li was “receptive” to his concern about the unsustainable trade imbalance between the two countries and both agreed to explore ways to bridge this gap.

India is taking forward the suggestion raised by Li in New Delhi for a Chinese industrial park to act as a magnet for Chinese investment in India, Singh said, adding that they are also exploring the possibility of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor connecting the two countries via the southern Silk Road.

“We are determined to inject new dynamism to our economic relations by

working with wider stakeholders,” Singh said.

To boost mutual understanding, both sides have decided to encourage provincial and sub-regional exchanges, institutionalize a high-level media forum, continue rooting exchanges for the next five years and celebrate 2014, the 60th anniversary of the announcement the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence as the Year of India-China Friendly Exchanges.

He conveyed to Li India’s commitment to visa simplification to facilitate Chinese nationals traveling to India and expressed hope that China will also facilitate such exchanges, while expressing appreciation for China’s cooperation in the establishment of Nalanda University.

They also had candid and constructive discussion on regional and global issues of importance to India and China, Singh said, describing this as one of the promising developments in the bilateral relationship.

The agreement and MOUs signed on Wednesday covering joint work in the areas of defence, road transport, transborder rivers, cultural exchanges, Nalanda University and sister-city linkages show impressive scope, he added.

India and China are two ancient civilizations and account for 2.5 billion people on this earth. “When India and China shake hands, the world notices,” the prime minister said, adding, “I believe that my visit to China has put our relations on a path of stable and fast growth.”

Message by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Wei Wei on the Occasion of the 64th National Day of China

On October 1, 2013, *The Economic Times* Published the Message from Chinese Ambassador to India Mr. Wei Wei on its Chinese National Day Special edition. The whole article is as follows:

It is a great pleasure and privilege to have you joining us in celebrating the sixty-fourth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

This year has been extraordinary in terms of China's development. Faced with various tough challenges both home and abroad, the Chinese Government, under the guidance of the new central leadership, has sized up the situation and remained cool-minded. A host of policies and measures have been introduced and efforts have been made to unswervingly promote the economic restructuring for more economic progress while ensuring stability. For the first six months this year, China's GDP registered a growth of 7.6%. The reforms have started to show positive effects.

Looking forward, we see a number of difficulties and challenges ahead. But we also see strong vitality and enormous potentials of socio-economic development in China, the long-term upward trajectory of which hasn't changed. We have the confidence and ability to deepen reform, keep the economy on the track of healthy and sustainable growth, foster more development and market opportunities, and continue to contribute to the recovery and growth of the world economy.

The "Chinese Dream" was put forward by President Xi Jinping and the "Two Centenary Goals" were set at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, namely, to

complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China in 2021 and to turn China into a socialist modern country that is strong, prosperous, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious by the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic of China in 2049.

China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development to materialize the "Chinese Dream" and will continue to pursue an independent foreign policy of peace and the strategy of opening-up for mutual benefits and win-win results. We will continue to follow the policy of building an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborly environment, live in harmony with other countries, and carry out win-win cooperation to make new contribution to the world peace and prosperity.

Dear Friends,

China and India both boast time-honored history and splendid culture, and have had a long tradition of friendly relationship. Over the past 63 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India, our relations have made great progress. The two countries have established the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, and cooperation has been unfolding in an all-round manner which has brought about significant yields. The foundation and bonds of China-India ties has been strengthened as understanding and friendship between our peoples greatly deepened.

2013 is a busy and fruitful year for China-India relations. We are happy to see

intensified high-level interactions which remain a salient feature of bilateral relations. During the 5th BRICS Summit in Durban and the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, President Xi Jinping had fruitful meetings and communications with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Premier Li Keqiang made India the first stop of his first overseas visit as China's Premier, shaking hands with the Indian leaders across the Himalayas. We are expecting the visit to China by the Indian leaders later this year. Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Defence Minister A. K. Antony, National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon paid successful visits respectively to China this year. Mutual trust and cooperation have been greatly enhanced through these high-level exchanges. Bilateral economic cooperation enjoys steady development. We jointly initiated the development of BCIM Economic Corridor during the visit of Premier Li Keqiang in May, deepened functional cooperation in investment, trade and infrastructure, and enhanced military, educational, cultural, media and provincial-level exchanges.

China and India, as two ancient

civilizations, two biggest developing countries and large emerging markets, are natural strategic partners. China attaches great importance to the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership with India. We are committed to seeking and expanding strategic consensus, deepening bilateral relations, enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation while properly handling differences. As stressed by the leaders of both countries, the significance and influence of China-India cooperation transcends bilateral dimensions. China and India joining hands is not only a blessing for the two peoples, but also a good fortune for Asia and the world at large.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to express heart-felt thanks to the Indian friends who care about and support China-India relations for a long time. Let's join hands to make great efforts to open up a new chapter in the bilateral relations.

May China and India enjoy prosperity and progress!

May China-India relations enjoy healthy and steady development!

Let's Join Hands to Create a New Era of Asia

On October 1, 2013, *The Indian Express* and *Finacial Express* published the "Chinese Dream" Special Edition on the occasion of 64th National Day of People's Republic of China. Chinese Ambassador Wei Wei delivered a message on the Special Edition. The full text is as follows:

64 years ago today, a new China, who had stood vicissitudes with unswerving spirit was founded. Over the past 64 years, China, under

the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, has undergone enormous changes. Especially since the reform and opening up, China has been enjoying sustained and rapid economic development. Its comprehensive national strength and international influence are significantly enhanced. The people's living standard has remarkably improved. Unprecedented vigor and creativity of the whole society are spurred. On the occasion of

64th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, I would like to extend, on behalf of all the staff of the Chinese Embassy in India, warm greetings and best wishes to all our compatriots in India, and express heartfelt thanks to Indian friends who long care about China and support China-India Friendship.

After the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the new generation of the collective leadership with General Secretary Xi Jinping as its core, put forward the "Chinese Dream", aimed at achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which coheres the efforts, wisdom and strength of the 1.3 billion Chinese people. It is our common vision and diligent pursuit for the national prosperity, revitalization and personal happiness. The "Chinese Dream" will bring benefits not only to the Chinese people, but also to the whole world as well. China is ready to make new contributions together with the international community to the noble cause of peace and development for mankind by promoting lasting peace, common prosperity and a harmonious world.

Asia, on the whole, as the world's most rapidly growing region, has now maintained peace and stability while sustaining economic growth. Both China and India, the two members of the Asia big family, are facing the same historical tasks, such as driving economic development, improving people's livelihood and deepening reforms. China's 2020 goal is to build a moderately prosperous society, while India's Vision 2020 is aimed at making India a developed country by 2020 which could be called the "Indian Dream." The realization of both the "Chinese Dream" and the "Indian Dream" requires a peaceful and stable periphery and external

environment which is inseparable from mutual support and harmonious coexistence with their neighbors. China adheres to the policy of friendship and partnership with the neighboring countries and is willing to work hand in hand with India to make Asia the anchor of the world peace. China, India and other Asian countries should combine each others' dreams together, continue to deepen our exchanges and cooperation and weave closer ties of common interests so as to enable Asia to carry more global weight in the 21st century.

China and India are neighbors. We unswervingly adhere to the path of peaceful development. We also sincerely hope that India will make continuous progress on the path towards peace, development and prosperity. China has all along regarded China-India relation as one of the most important bilateral ties. We hope to develop a long-term stable and healthy, friendly and cooperative relation with India. As long as we treat each other with sincerity, we believe that even there is competition between us it will become an impetus for common development. As long as we treat each other with kindness, even there are differences, it will not do harm to our overall friendly bilateral relation. It is understandable to have differences between neighboring countries, but the key is that we should put friendly bilateral relation, regional stability and overall development at the first place, and resort to a peaceful solution through dialogue and consultation. Before resolving the differences, we should seek common ground and reserve the differences and coexist peacefully. While actively developing cooperation of mutual benefits, we may make endeavours to create conditions for the solution of the differences. As Premier Li

Keqiang said during his visit to India earlier this year that China and India coexist in harmony is a fortune for Asia and a blessing to the world. At the present, the world economy is still facing risks and challenges. The recovery basis remains weak. As the representatives of the Asian emerging economies, China and India need to forge consensus and pull together with joint cooperation to foster new highlights of cooperation in Asia and to create a new engine of the world economy.

China is continuing its efforts for the “Chinese Dream”. Meanwhile, we will be sincerely committed to the continuous

cooperation with India and other neighboring countries in such fields as trade, finance, energy and interconnection. We hope that China’s own development will better benefit the neighboring countries, ensuring their people to enjoy the real benefits of common development. We would like to share the “Chinese dream”. I am also of the firm belief that as long as China and India and other Asian countries work together and march forward along the paths suited to our own national conditions, we will be able to realize our respective dreams and the dream of a new Era of Asia.

II. PRESIDENT XI JINPING ATTENDS APEC SUMMIT, VISITS INDONESIA, MALAYSIA

Chinese President Arrives in Bali Island for APEC Meeting

Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 5 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday afternoon arrived in the Indonesian resort island of Bali to attend the 21st informal economic leaders’ meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

It was Xi’s first attendance at the APEC meeting which was held from Oct. 7 to Oct. 8, since he assumed presidency in March. Xi arrived in Bali after wrapping up his state



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan wave upon their arrival in Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 5, 2013. Xi on Saturday afternoon arrived in Bali to attend the 21st informal economic leaders’ meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). (Xinhua/Ding Lin)

visits to Indonesia and Malaysia.

During his stay on Bali island, Xi also meet with many other leaders and representatives attended the meeting.

This year's APEC gathering, themed "Resilient Asia-Pacific, Engine of Global Growth," highlights such topics as achieving sustainable growth with equity, promoting inter-connectivity in the region, and attaining the Bogor Goals, a timeline for achieving free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of unevenness of global economic growth, potential uprising of trade and investment protectionism, the stalled Doha round trade negotiations, and strong efforts to boost

economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region.

APEC, a premier economic forum in the Asia-Pacific region established in 1989, has been committed to dismantling barriers and bottlenecks that interfere with business while nurturing closer economic ties.

The organization has grown to encompass 21 members across the Asia-Pacific region, accounting for approximately 55 percent of global GDP and 44 percent of world trade, according to data provided on its official website.

As the highest-level meeting of the APEC, the informal economic leaders' meeting has been held annually since its first convention in Seattle, the United States in November 1993.

China Committed to Regional Peace, Development

Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 7 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Monday that China is committed to promoting regional peace and development, and building a cross-Pacific cooperation framework.

Xi made the remarks while addressing an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

"China will firmly uphold regional peace and stability, and help cement the foundation for a win-win situation in the Asia-Pacific," said the Chinese leader.

He hoped that all regional members could work together to build a harmonious Asia-Pacific of "enduring peace" and "common prosperity."

Xi said his country will also work to boost regional development and prosperity, and expand opportunities of mutual benefit in the



Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks at the APEC CEO Summit in Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 7, 2013. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)

area, adding that with its growing domestic demand, China will offer foreign investors

more chances for cooperation.

For many Asia-Pacific economies, China is their biggest trading partner, top export market and a major source of investment. Last year, China has contributed more than 50 percent to Asia's overall economic growth.

Meanwhile, by the end of 2012, China has attracted some 1.3 trillion U.S. dollars of foreign direct investment, and signed 12 free trade agreements with 20 countries and regions, with six still under negotiations.

Xi also told the summit that China, in the coming five years, will import over 10 trillion dollars of goods and invest more than 500 billion dollars abroad, suggesting even more profitable opportunities for cooperating with China.

Beijing will also commit itself to building a "cross-Pacific regional cooperation framework" that can bring benefits to all parties, said Xi.

"We should enhance coordination on macro-economic policies and among regional free trade arrangements, and deepen regional integration" for closer partnership across the Pacific and long-term development within the area, he urged.

Speaking of what the Asia-Pacific's future should look like, Xi said the regional economies should build a region that seeks common development.

He called on the developed economies to provide stronger support and assistance to the developing markets. < In the future, the Asia-Pacific should also stay committed to

open development, promote innovation-driven development, and pursue interconnected growth, said Xi.

The Chinese leader said all members should maintain a multilateral trading system that is free, open and non-discriminatory, and oppose all forms of protectionism.

While pointing out that it is too costly to base growth on excessive resources consumption and environmental pollution,



Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (1st L) pose for a photo with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (2nd R) and his wife before a dinner hosted for the leaders and their spouses at the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 7, 2013. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)

Xi said green and low-carbon development should be pursued.

He also noted that many of the regional members, especially the emerging and developing economies, need huge financial support to develop their infrastructure, which is key to maintaining economic growth and promoting connectivity and integration.

To do that, Xi suggested an Asian

infrastructure investment bank be established so as to “fuel the sustained and steady growth of the Asian economy.”

Also in his speech, the Chinese president described the industrial and business communities a “major force” for economic and trade development, as well as “an integral part in APEC cooperation.”

He added that enterprises from other APEC members are welcome to invest in China, and be a part of China’s endeavors of reforms and opening-up.

After wrapping up his state visits to Indonesia and Malaysia, the Chinese President arrived in Bali on Saturday afternoon to attend the APEC meeting, his first appearance at the summit since taking over the presidency in March.

During his stay on Bali island, Xi has met with a series of world leaders and representatives attending the meeting.

This year’s APEC gathering, themed

“Resilient Asia-Pacific, Engine of Global Growth,” highlights such topics as achieving sustainable growth with equity, promoting inter-connectivity in the region, and attaining the Bogor Goals, a timeline for achieving free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific.

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The organization has grown to encompass 21 members across the Asia-Pacific region, accounting for approximately 55 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP) and 44 percent of world trade, according to data provided on its official website.

As the highest-level meeting of the APEC, the informal economic leaders’ meeting has been held annually since its first convention in Seattle, the United States in November 1993.

Chinese President says APEC Should Play Leading Role in Maintaining Open World Economy

Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 7 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said here on Monday that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) should play a leading role in maintaining and advancing an open world economy.

Noting that the world economy is still confronted with daunting challenges before achieving full recovery and sound growth, Xi said APEC must face them head-on with courage and resolve.

APEC “should play a leading and coordinating role in maintaining and

advancing an open world economy, and in making sure that the Asia-Pacific continues to serve as an engine for global economic recovery,” Xi said in a keynote speech at the APEC economic leaders’ meeting.

APEC leaders kicked off a two-day gathering on Monday in the Indonesian resort island of Bali, with sustainable growth and regional cooperation high on the agenda.

In his speech, Xi put forward a three-point proposal for APEC.

First, APEC member economies should work together for the common development

of the Asia-Pacific through increased macro-economic policy coordination, Xi said.

With the economies of APEC members closely intertwined in economic globalization, they must amplify the positive effects of macro-economic policy coordination while preventing or reducing the negative spillover, and pursue win-win cooperation in an open and inclusive spirit, he said.

The Chinese president said major reserve currency issuers should implement responsible macro-economic policies, act cautiously in adjusting their policies and increase communication and coordination with other economies.

“APEC should play a similar role in promoting an open environment for development in the Asia-Pacific, featuring policy coordination, interconnected growth and converging interests,” Xi said.

Second, APEC members should maintain economic and financial stability in the Asia-Pacific through factual assessment of the situation and cool-headed response to the

challenges, Xi said.

He noted that world economic fluctuations have brought challenges to the financial market, capital flow and exchange rate stability in the Asia-Pacific, exposing the region to more economic and financial risks.

“We must prevent risks from piling up and causing major economic and financial turbulence in the Asia-Pacific,” Xi said, while expressing confidence about the future of the region.

Third, APEC members should take a long-term perspective, promote profound economic restructuring and give stronger impetus to the sustained development of the Asia-Pacific, Xi said.

“Asia-Pacific economies should accelerate readjustment of their respective economic structure and deepen the integration of the industrial chain and the value chain so that the Asia-Pacific will take the lead globally in forming new industrial clusters for growth and continue to serve as an important engine for the world economy,” he said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (8th L, front) and his wife Peng Liyuan (7th L, front) pose for a group photo with the leaders and their spouses at the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting before a dinner hosted by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife in Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 7, 2013. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)

China to Join Russia in Maintaining Security in Asia-Pacific

Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 7 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Monday that China would like to work with Russia to guarantee security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

While meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the sideline of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, Xi said China and Russia share a wide range of common interests in the region.

Xi said China is willing to join Russia in enhancing their coordination so as to maintain regional security and stability, and promote prosperity.

It was the fifth meeting between the presidents of the two countries since the beginning of this year, which, according to the Chinese president, has shown the distinctiveness of the bilateral ties.

The Chinese leader also hailed 2013 as a fruitful year for the China-Russia relations, noting that a host of accomplishments have been achieved in such areas as practical cooperation, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, as well as in handling international affairs.

He urged the two sides to optimize bilateral trade structure, promote cooperation in energy, resources and high-tech, and to continue with their close communication and coordination on international issues.

Xi also called on the two countries to do a

good job in preparing major activities like the regular meetings between the two nations' premiers and the closing ceremony of the Chinese Tourism Year in Russia.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Bali, Indonesia, Oct. 7, 2013. (Xinhua/Zhang Duo)

Putin, for his part, said Russia-China relations enjoy a sound momentum with frequent leadership visits, ever growing trade cooperation, as well as cultural and inter-military exchanges.

Both sides also have maintained effective coordination on major international and regional issues, he added.

Noting that Russia-China relations enjoy broad prospects, Putin said he is ready to maintain friendship and close exchanges with Xi to further practical cooperation in various fields, including energy and infrastructure.

Also during their talks, the two leaders agreed to hold activities to commemorate the

70th anniversary for the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War in 2015.

Chinese President Arrives in Jakarta for State Visit

Jakarta, Oct. 2 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived here Wednesday for a state visit to Indonesia, the first leg of his maiden trip to Southeast Asia since he assumed presidency in March.

Stressing that China and Indonesia are both major developing countries, Xi said closer strategic cooperation between the two countries serves the fundamental interests of both nations and their peoples.

It also conforms to the historical trend of developing countries gaining strength through unity, and helps promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world, said the Chinese president.

“I look forward to in-depth discussions with President (Susilo Bambang) Yudhoyono and other Indonesian leaders on bilateral ties, and international and regional issues of shared interest, so as to map out future cooperation between China and Indonesia and promote common development of our two countries,” Xi added.

During his stay in Indonesia, Xi met with Yudhoyono, Vice President Boediono and parliamentary leaders. He also attended a luncheon with the business community.

Xi delivered a speech to Indonesian lawmakers and elaborated on China’s vision



Chinese President Xi Jinping is welcomed upon his arrival in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, Oct. 2, 2013. Xi Jinping arrived in Jakarta for a state visit to Indonesia on Wednesday. (Xinhua/Li Xueren)

to promote bilateral ties and relations between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as China’s peaceful development.

The Indonesian people anticipated Xi’s visit to their country and his attendance of the 21st informal economic leaders’ meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to be held in Bali Island of Indonesia, said Yudhoyono at a meeting with Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi on Sept. 19.

The Indonesian president said he is looking forward to in-depth exchanges of views with Xi on bilateral ties and key international and regional issues to cement friendship, promote cooperation and advance the Indonesia-China strategic partnership.

Indonesia is the first Southeast Asian country Xi visits since he became president, reflecting the country's important role in China's diplomacy with neighboring countries.

Bilateral relations have seen rapid growth with new achievements in friendly cooperation since the establishment of the China-Indonesia strategic partnership in 2005, said Chinese ambassador to Indonesia Liu Jianchao in an interview with Xinhua.

With bilateral trade reaching 66.2 billion U.S. dollars last year, four times that of 2005, China has become Indonesia's second largest trade partner. Bilateral trade in the first half of 2013 hit 33.84 billion dollars, up 4.6 percent from the same period of last year.

For three consecutive years, Indonesia has been China's largest market for project contracting in Southeast Asia.

The two countries scored positive achievements in cooperation in the areas of



Chinese President Xi Jinping is welcomed by Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, Oct. 2, 2013. Xi Jinping arrived in Jakarta for a state visit to Indonesia on Wednesday. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)

science, technology, education, culture, people-to-people exchanges, defense and security, maritime affairs and aerospace.

After the Indonesia trip, Xi paid a state visit to Malaysia.

The Chinese president later returned to Indonesia for the APEC meeting which was from Oct. 7 to Oct. 8.

Chinese President Meets Indonesian Counterpart on Ties

Jakarta, Oct. 2 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met here Wednesday on bilateral ties, relations between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other major regional and international issues.

Xi arrived here earlier in the day for a state visit to Indonesia, the first leg of his maiden

trip to Southeast Asia since he assumed presidency in March.

After their talks, the two countries will issue a major political document, while the two leaders will witness the signing of a series of cooperative deals between governmental departments and enterprises of the two countries. The two leaders will also hold a joint press conference.

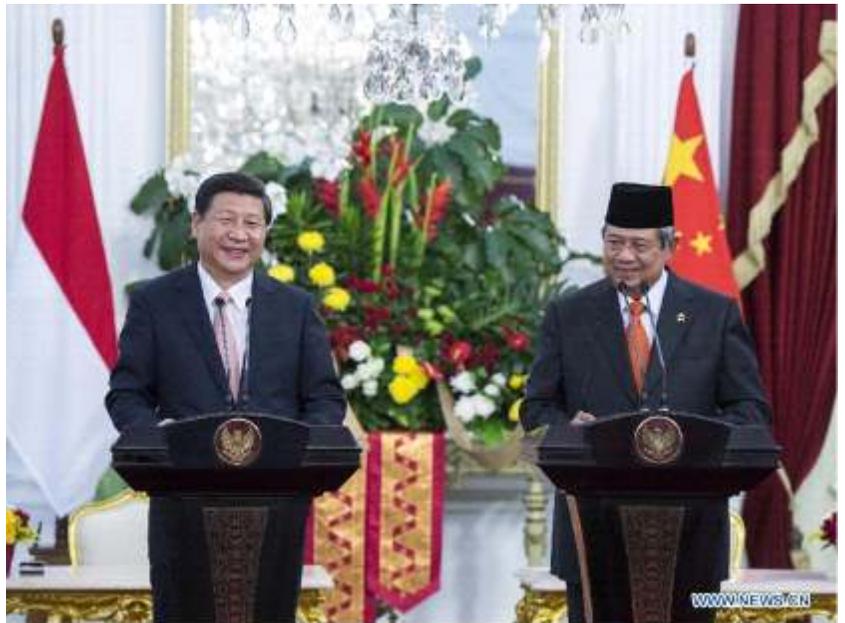
Cooperation between the two countries has been steadily enhanced since the establishment of the China-Indonesia strategic partnership in 2005.

With bilateral trade reaching 66.22 billion U.S. dollars last year, four times that of 2005, China has become Indonesia's second biggest trade partner. Bilateral trade in the first half of 2013 hit 33.84 billion dollars, up 4.6 percent from the same period of last year.

For three successive years, Indonesia has been China's largest market for project contracting in Southeast Asia.

The two countries have also made remarkable progress in cooperation in such fields as science and technology, education, culture, people-to-people exchanges, defense, maritime affairs and aerospace.

The Chinese president will also visit



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) and his Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono meet the press after their meeting in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, Oct. 2, 2013. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)

Malaysia and later return to Indonesia for the 21st informal economic leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in the resort island of Bali from Oct. 7 to Oct. 8.

Chinese President Xi's Indonesia Visit Lifts Bilateral Ties and Charts Future Cooperation

Jakarta, Oct. 3 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday wrapped up a two-day state visit to Indonesia that saw the two countries lift their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

During his stay in Indonesia, Xi proposed to establish an Asian infrastructure investment bank so as to promote regional interconnectivity and economic integration.

He also called for joint efforts to build a more closely-knit community of common destiny between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Indonesia is the first Southeast Asian country Xi has visited since he assumed presidency in March, which reflects the country's important role in China's diplomacy with neighboring countries.

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Xi and his Indonesian counterpart, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, held talks Wednesday and agreed to lift bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Noting that profound and complicated changes are taking place in global and regional landscapes, Xi pointed out that it is an inevitable choice for the two countries to further strengthen their strategic cooperation.

China regards Indonesia as a priority in its diplomacy with neighboring countries, and stands ready to comprehensively deepen bilateral cooperation so as to realize common development for the benefit of both peoples, Xi said.

The two countries vowed to boost cooperation in such areas as infrastructure construction, manufacturing, agriculture, investment and financing, so as to create new growth points and increase bilateral trade to 80 billion U.S. dollars by 2015.

They agreed to encourage the active participation of Chinese enterprises in the construction of Indonesia's six major economic corridors, and support the building of a joint comprehensive industrial park in the Southeast Asian country.

The two countries also promised to strengthen cooperation in the fields of oil, natural gas and new energy, so as to forge a long-term and reliable energy cooperation partnership.

To deepen fiscal and financial cooperation, they vowed to extend a 100-billion-RMB (about 16.3 billion dollars) bilateral currency swap agreement with the prospect of further expanding its scale.

Meanwhile, the two sides agreed to enhance maritime cooperation, establish an



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech to Indonesian lawmakers at the House of Representatives of Indonesia in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, Oct. 3, 2013. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)

intergovernmental fishery cooperation mechanism, and launch negotiations on fishing arrangements.

They also pledged to establish an aerospace cooperation mechanism, and carry out cooperation in such fields as space tracking and control, and satellite launch and application.

In addition, the two countries agreed to strengthen security communication and coordination through defense consultations and navy dialogues, and thus deepen China-Indonesia and China-ASEAN security cooperation.

They also vowed to beef up exchanges and cooperation in fighting cross-border crimes and terrorism and in disaster prevention and relief.

In a joint statement titled "Future Direction of China-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," the two sides agreed that it is the common responsibility of the countries in the region to maintain peace and

stability in the South China Sea.

The document urged China, Indonesia and other ASEAN countries to work together to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), enhance mutual trust, promote cooperation, and maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

The two sides also agreed to work towards the eventual adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea in line with the principles and spirit of the DOC.

CHINA-ASEAN COMMUNITY OF COMMON DESTINY

As the first foreign head of state to deliver a speech in the House of Representatives of Indonesia, Xi not only expounded on bilateral ties, but called for the building of a China-ASEAN community of common destiny.

China, he said, is willing to work with Indonesia and other ASEAN countries to ensure that China and ASEAN are good neighbors, friends and partners.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R, front) meets with Chairman of Indonesia's People's Consultative Assembly Sidarto Danusubroto (2nd L) in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, Oct. 3, 2013. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R, front) meets with Indonesia's Speaker of the House of Representatives Marzuki Alie (L, front) in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, Oct. 3, 2013. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)

For the purpose of building a more closely-knit China-ASEAN community of common destiny, Xi proposed that the two sides cement trust and develop good-neighborliness.

China and ASEAN countries, he suggested, should also work for win-win cooperation, stand together and assist each other, enhance mutual understanding and friendship to increase the social support for bilateral ties, and stick to openness and inclusiveness.

Beijing is prepared to elevate the level of the China-ASEAN free trade area and aims to expand two-way trade to one trillion dollars by 2020, said the Chinese president.

China is committed to promoting interconnectivity with ASEAN countries, and is willing to help improve infrastructure

interconnectivity among developing countries in the region, including ASEAN members, he added.

With regard to differences and disputes between China and some Southeast Asian nations on territorial sovereignty and maritime rights in the South China Sea, Xi stressed that peaceful solutions should be sought.

Differences and disputes should be properly handled through equal-footed dialogue and friendly consultation in the

overall interests of bilateral ties and regional stability, he said.

Moreover, Xi emphasized that China is fully committed to the path of peaceful development.

A stronger China will present development opportunities, rather than pose threats, to Asia and the world, said Xi, adding that China “will continue to share opportunities for economic and social development with ASEAN, Asia and the world.”

China, Malaysia Agree to Lift Ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 4 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak agreed on Friday to upgrade bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

During their talks, the two leaders spoke highly of the achievements made in cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views on advancing bilateral ties under the new circumstances.

They both agreed to lift bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Noting that Malaysia is the first country in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to forge diplomatic ties with China, Xi stressed the

importance of China-Malaysia ties.

“China highly values its relationship with Malaysia, which is taking the lead in China’s relations with ASEAN members,” Xi said,



Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (1st L) attend a banquet hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (2nd R) and his wife Rosmah Mansor (1st R) at their residence in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, Oct. 3, 2013. (Xinhua/Zhang Duo)

urging the two sides to enhance strategic cooperation to make their relationship a fine example in the region.

To that end, Xi put forward a five-point proposal.

First, leaders of the two countries should keep the good tradition of frequent mutual visits, increase communication on major issues and strengthen top-level design of bilateral relations, said Xi.

The two countries should also enhance party-to-party exchanges and share experience on governance and policy-making.

Second, the two sides should expand economic and trade cooperation in line with their respective development strategies, aiming for 160 billion U.S. dollars in bilateral trade by 2017.

China has been Malaysia's biggest trading partner for the last four years, while Malaysia has been China's largest in the 10-member ASEAN for five years in a row.

Two-way trade soared to a record high of 94.8 billion dollars last year, while trade in the first seven months of 2013 jumped 14.9 percent to 59.72 billion dollars.

The Qinzhou Industrial Park in China and the Kuantan Industrial Park in Malaysia, noted Xi, should be built as flagship projects of investment cooperation between the two countries.

Beijing encourages Chinese enterprises to participate in the development of northern Malaysia and the high-speed railway construction linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, which will promote regional inter-connectivity, said Xi.

Third, the two sides should tighten cooperation in telecommunication, remote sensing satellite and biological technology, said Xi.

Fourth, China and Malaysia must make full use of the defense and security consultation mechanism, increase exchanges between the two militaries, deepen law-enforcement cooperation, and join hands in combating terrorism and trans-border crimes.

Fifth, China and Malaysia should expand sub-national cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, said Xi, urging the two sides to work out plans for celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties in 2014, which has been designated as the "China-Malaysia Friendship Year."

On regional cooperation, Xi called on China and ASEAN members to deepen cooperation, push forward regional economic integration and create favorable conditions for development.

For his part, Najib said his country hopes to enhance the comprehensive strategic partnership with China.

"China is a trustworthy friend of Malaysia," he said. "Our bilateral relations enjoy vast prospects."

The Malaysian prime minister said his country is ready to maintain communications with China at all levels, expand two-way trade, promote mutual investment, and welcome Chinese enterprises in its infrastructure construction.

It is also ready to deepen cooperation with China in military, technology, law-enforcement, education, tourism and culture and increase people-to-people exchanges.

Malaysia supports China's proposal of building an Asian infrastructure investment bank and will consider participation in it, said Najib.

Malaysia also stands ready to advance the development of ASEAN-China relations and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the

region, he said.

After the meeting, the two leaders witnessed the signing of several cooperation agreements and jointly met the press.

“China supports ASEAN’s leading status in East Asia cooperation, and is happy to see Malaysia play a bigger role in the region,” Xi told reporters.

Xi arrived here Thursday evening for a

state visit to Malaysia, the second leg of his maiden trip to Southeast Asia since taking office in March.

From Malaysia, the Chinese president will travel to the Indonesian resort island of Bali for the 21st informal economic leaders’ meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Chinese President Xi's Visit Ushers in New Era in China-Malaysia Ties

Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 5 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping left here Saturday after concluding his first state visit to Malaysia, which helps usher in a new era in China-Malaysia relations.

During his stay in Malaysia, Xi met Supreme Head of State Abdul Halim Mu’adzam Shah and Prime Minister Najib Razak, and attended a China-Malaysia economic summit. He also witnessed the signing of a series of cooperation agreements.

Both sides agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, and make efforts to expand annual bilateral trade to 160 billion U.S. dollars by 2017. The first Chinese university outside China, Xiamen University Malaysia Campus, will also be set up in the Southeast Asian country.

The visit by President Xi marks another great leap forward of bilateral relationship between Malaysia and China.

“In fact, the achievements of the visit are well beyond my

expectation. It’s a miracle that so many achievements have been made within such a short period of time,” said Tan Khai Hee, secretary general of Malaysia-China Friendship Association.

UPGRADE OF BILATERAL TIES

During their talks on Friday, Xi and Najib



Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd L) meets with Malaysian Supreme Head of State Abdul Halim (2nd R) in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, Oct. 4, 2013. (Xinhua/Xie Huanchi)

agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

“China highly values its relationship with Malaysia, which is taking the lead in China’s relations with ASEAN members,” Xi said, urging the two sides to enhance strategic cooperation to make their relationship a fine example in the region.

ASEAN stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which consists of Malaysia and nine other Southeast Asian countries.

Xi said the upgrade to a comprehensive strategic partnership will draw a more “beautiful” blueprint for bilateral ties.

For his part, Najib said his country hopes to enhance the comprehensive strategic partnership with China.

“China is a trustworthy friend of Malaysia,” he said. “Our bilateral relations enjoy vast prospects.”

The single most significant achievement of Xi’s visit is of course the upgrade of the bilateral relationship to comprehensive strategic partnership, which China only accords to its most valued neighbors and friends, said political analyst Oh Ei Sun, a former political secretary to Najib.

While the economic collaboration will continue to prosper in gigantic leaps, the comprehensive nature of the relationship will see more technological, cultural and educational exchanges, which are crucial for the ever closer relationship between the two countries, he said in an interview with Xinhua.

WIN-WIN COOPERATION

China has been Malaysia’s biggest trading



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) shakes hands with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, Oct. 4, 2013 .(Xinhua Ma Zhancheng)

partner for the last four years, while Malaysia has been China’s largest in the 10-member ASEAN for five years in a row.

Two-way trade soared to a record high of 94.8 billion dollars last year, while trade in the first seven months of 2013 jumped 14.9 percent to 59.72 billion dollars.

The Qinzhou Industrial Park in China and the Kuantan Industrial Park in Malaysia, noted Xi, should be built as flagship projects of investment cooperation between the two countries.

Beijing encourages Chinese enterprises to participate in the development of northern Malaysia and the high-speed railway construction linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, which will promote regional inter-connectivity, said Xi.

When addressing more than 1,000 business people and officials at the China-Malaysia Economic Summit on Friday, Xi proposed that the two countries boost

bilateral trade and investment, deepen cooperation in the sectors of finance, agriculture and fishery, and jointly improve regional cooperation.

The Chinese president and the Malaysian prime minister witnessed the signing of the five-year program for economic and trade cooperation, which emphasizes the sharing of knowledge, technological resources and investment in the service of sustainable economic development and maps out mutually beneficial initiatives.

The two leaders have set an ambitious target that by the end of the fifth year of this program, bilateral trade between China and Malaysia will hit 160 billion dollars.

The program covers many areas of cooperation, including agriculture, energy and mineral resources, information and telecommunication, manufacturing, infrastructure, engineering, tourism, logistics and retailing.

Pheng Yin Huah, president of the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia, said the program shows that China values its relations with Malaysia and President Xi wants more Chinese businessmen to invest in Malaysia.

“I believe that Malaysia and China will have more exchanges in politics, business and education,” he added.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

During his visit to Malaysia, Xi called for further cooperation between Asian countries.

Although Asia remains the most dynamic and promising region in the world, Asian countries still face the arduous tasks of developing economy and improving people's livelihood amid lingering impact of the international financial crisis, Xi said.

He called on Asian countries to focus on

development, carry forward the all-in-the-same-boat spirit of unity and cooperation, and jointly safeguard the long-term stability and development in Asia.

“China supports ASEAN's leading status in East Asia cooperation, and is happy to see Malaysia play a bigger role in the region,” Xi said.

Najib said Malaysia also stands ready to advance the development of ASEAN-China relations and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

“Whether on bilateral trade relations or international efforts to build a more sustainable global economy, we are strongest when we work together,” Najib said.

In an interview with Xinhua prior to Xi's visit, the Malaysian leader said that as a founding member of ASEAN, Malaysia stands ready to contribute to stronger China-ASEAN ties.

“Not only is China a dialogue partner with ASEAN, but it's also an integral part of the East Asia summit,” he said.

“Because of that, the relationship between China and ASEAN is very important and continues to grow particularly in terms of trade and China's involvement in major infrastructure projects in the whole region,” he added.

While in Indonesia, the first leg of Xi's maiden Southeast Asia tour since he assumed presidency in March, Xi said China and ASEAN countries should work for win-win cooperation, stand together and assist each other, enhance mutual understanding and friendship to increase social support for bilateral ties, and stick to openness and inclusiveness.

Differences and disputes should be properly handled through equal-footed dialogue and friendly consultation for the

overall interests of bilateral ties and regional stability, he said.

Xi arrived here Thursday and left the city

Saturday for the 21st informal economic leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to be held in Bali, Indonesia.

President Xi's Joint Written Interview with Media from Indonesia and Malaysia

Beijing, Oct. 2 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping gave a joint written interview to media from Indonesia and Malaysia on bilateral relations, the 21st leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), economic development prospect of Asia-Pacific region, China's economic situation, and the relationship between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), before his state visits to these two countries, and attendance to the APEC leaders' meeting.

The media include Indonesia's Jakarta Post and Kompas, Malaysia's Utusan Malaysia, Sin Chew Jit Poh, and New Straits Times.

Following is the full text of the interview:

1. We have noticed that Indonesia is the first stop of your first visit to Southeast Asia as China's President. What are your expectations for the visit? The national football teams of China and Indonesia will compete in the 2015 Asian Cup Qualification in Jakarta in mid October. I heard that you are a football fan. What is your forecast of the result of the match?

Indonesia is a beautiful country known as the "Emerald of the Equator". Indonesian folksongs such as "Ayo Mama" and "Sing Sing So" are very popular in China. I was in Indonesia some twenty years ago, and was deeply impressed by the dynamic growth of

this country, which was called one of the four "little tigers" in Asia.

Since the end of the 20th century, Indonesia has worked hard to tide over the impact of the Asian financial crisis and the international economic and financial crisis, and has turned itself into a remarkable emerging market economy with political stability, economic growth, social progress and ethnic harmony.

It has been 63 years since China and Indonesia established diplomatic relations. Bilateral ties have traversed an extraordinary course. Since the start of the 21st century, particularly since the establishment of strategic partnership between the two countries in 2005, our dialogue and cooperation across the board have embarked on a new journey of comprehensive and rapid development. Between 2005 and 2012, the two countries put in place multi-tiered and multi-field cooperation mechanisms including vice prime ministerial dialogue, defense consultation and maritime cooperation. Bilateral trade volume reached US\$66.2 billion, four times that of 2005. China's direct investment in Indonesia increased 10 times to US\$2 billion. And personnel exchanges between the two countries rose three times to 1.33 million person-times. The two sides also worked closely on regional and international affairs and effectively safeguarded the

common interests of the developing countries.

Both China and Indonesia are major developing countries in the region, and their strategic cooperation carries a great significance and boasts a broad prospect. The purpose of my state visit to Indonesia is to carry forward our traditional friendship and plan for our cooperation. I look forward to an in-depth exchange of views with President Susilo on ways to advance our friendship and cooperation on all fronts and bring China-Indonesia relations to a new high.

Talking about football, it is a team sport that calls for good coordination. Important as individual skills are, team work holds the key to the result of the match. That's one of the reasons why I like football. The charm of the game also lies in its unpredictability as the situation on the ground may change every minute it goes. I hope that the national teams of China and Indonesia will present an enjoyable, friendly and spectacular match. I also hope that the two teams will make it to the World Cup finals in the not-so-distant future.

2. Both China and Malaysia have put in place a new government this year. How do you see the current China-Malaysia relations and what are your expectations for the future course of this relationship?

China-Malaysia relations have come a long way in recent years and are well on track to an all-round, steady and results-oriented expansion. China has been Malaysia's largest trading partner for four consecutive years, and Malaysia China's largest trading partner in ASEAN for five years running. In 2012, two-way trade reached a historical high of

US\$94.8 billion. Malaysia is expected to become the third Asian country, following Japan and the ROK, with a bilateral trade volume with China topping US\$100 billion. The opening of the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park and the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park made history in the mutual establishment of state-level industrial parks between China and ASEAN countries. Financial cooperation between the two countries has registered fast growth. We have signed a bilateral currency swap agreement worth RMB180 billion which helped put our business cooperation on a solid footing. People-to-people exchanges continued to expand with annual personnel exchanges

exceeding two million person-times for three year running and the number of exchange students topping 15,000. Cooperation between China and Malaysia has brought benefits to both sides.

At present, both China and Malaysia are working hard to improve the people's living standards and achieve national development. China is ready to

work together with Malaysia so as to create a better future for both sides. I look forward to in-depth exchange of views with Malaysian leaders on ways to promote all-directional cooperation and build a stable framework for long-term and sound growth of our bilateral relations. I am convinced that with our joint efforts, China-Malaysia strategic cooperation will grow from strength to strength and bring greater benefit to the two peoples.

3. The 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held on October 7-8 in Bali, Indonesia. What do you expect from this meeting? China will host the APEC meeting

Both China and Indonesia are major developing countries in the region, and their strategic cooperation carries a great significance and boasts a broad prospect.

next year, and could you share with us China's ideas on hosting that event?

The world economy has entered a period of deep readjustment with all regions facing opportunities and challenges in the course of development. The Asia-Pacific region, which has played a leading role in promoting global economic recovery, remains the world's most dynamic and most promising region. APEC, the most influential economic cooperation organization in the region, which attracts the highest level of participation and covers the widest range of areas of cooperation, has played an important role in advancing exchanges, cooperation and economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region.

China hopes that the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting to be held in Bali, Indonesia will focus on the region's leading role in global economic recovery while endeavoring to achieve three objectives. First, to shore up international community's confidence in the development of the Asia Pacific. Second, to give greater play to APEC's leading and coordinating role and upgrade the standing of APEC. Third, to facilitate more positive results at the meeting in supporting the multilateral trading regime, coordinating regional free-trade arrangements and promoting connectivity and infrastructure development in the region.

China will host the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2014. We expect to use the occasion to do the following: encouraging APEC economies to build closer partnerships in an open, inclusive and win-win spirit, promote a greater leadership role for APEC, promote greater progress in Asia-Pacific

The recent financial fluctuations in some emerging economies in this region are largely caused by external factors, which have affected market expectations and led to withdrawal of international capital.

integration, and plan for the long-term development of and win-win cooperation in the region; strengthening macro economic policy coordination by APEC members, information sharing and exchanges among regional free trade arrangements and coordination in regional economic integration; advancing transformation and growth by intensifying innovation-led development, seeking growth from transformation and facilitating transformation through growth so as to inject greater vigor and vitality to the region's development; continuing to promote all-directional infrastructure and connectivity development by addressing the salient problems, promoting regional and subregional cooperation through connectivity and shaping an economic pattern conducive to Asia-Pacific integration.

China is ready to maintain close communication with all parties to ensure the success of the 2013 and 2014 APEC Economic Leaders' Meetings and make greater contribution to the development and prosperity of the Asia Pacific.

4. Recently, with the occurrence of fluctuations in the financial markets of some emerging economies in the Asia Pacific, uncertainties in economic growth have been on the rise. At the same time, the Chinese economy has slowed down. These have led to rising concerns on the part of the international community about the economic outlook in the Asia Pacific and economic downturn in China. What is your view on this?

The recent financial fluctuations in some emerging economies in this region are

largely caused by external factors, which have affected market expectations and led to withdrawal of international capital. We call on major developed economies to adopt responsible macro economic policies so as to avoid negative spillover effects. At the same time, emerging market economies also need to enhance risk preparedness and resistance capabilities. It is important to stress here, however, that the shared desire of the Asia-Pacific region for peace, stability and development has remained unchanged; that the historical trend of a rising Asia Pacific in the world both politically and economically has not changed; and that the driver and potential dynamism for a sustained and rapidly growing Asia-Pacific economy has not changed.

We have reasons to believe that the Asia-Pacific region has a bright future. All APEC members should work steadily to ensure that the region will continue playing its leading role in a full recovery and healthy growth of the world economy.

In the first half of this year, China's economy registered a year-on-year growth of 7.6%, slightly lower than previous months. The Chinese government has, of its own accord, introduced measures of readjustment. We made a determined decision to stabilize growth, readjust the structure and deepen reform. No longer taking GDP as the sole measurement of success, we are focusing more on the quality and efficiency of growth. The measures of readjustment and transformation today are aimed at achieving a

growth tomorrow that is sounder, more sustainable and of even higher quality.

Comparatively speaking, China's growth is not slow. It is perhaps among the fastest in the Asia Pacific and even the world. The Chinese government has full confidence in achieving a sustained and sound economic development. A Chinese economy that is on track of sustained and sound growth will inject fresh impetus to global economic recovery and make greater contribution to the common development and prosperity of the Asia Pacific.

5. Economic integration in the Asia Pacific is gaining momentum, as evidenced by the

mushrooming regional free trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). What is your view on Asia-Pacific economic integration? What role can APEC play?

Asia-Pacific economic integration has presented a beautiful vision of

highly integrated regional economy and in-depth expansion of Asia-Pacific cooperation. This is the mission shared by all APEC members and a grand goal for the future development of the Asia-Pacific region.

Free trade arrangements are mushrooming in the region, which is a positive sign for the in-depth development of regional integration. We should expand market openness and deepen regional economic integration through development of such

Comparatively speaking, China's growth is not slow. It is perhaps among the fastest in the Asia Pacific and even the world. The Chinese government has full confidence in achieving a sustained and sound economic development.

regional free trade arrangements.

As a Chinese saying goes, “the ocean is vast because it admits hundreds of rivers”. China has always actively supported and participated in the process of Asia-Pacific economic integration, always upholding an open attitude to any mechanism or arrangement that is conducive to the process. At the same time, we believe that in developing FTAs, the parties should cherish the principles of openness, inclusiveness and transparency and, in particular, demonstrate flexibility for economies at different development stages, so as to offer more options for integration.

As the top-level, broadest and most influential economic cooperation organization in the Asia Pacific, APEC should play a leading and coordinating role in promoting information sharing, transparency and openness among the various free trade arrangements so that they could learn from one another, promoting, reinforcing, and complementing one another to create favorable conditions for the eventual economic integration in the Asia Pacific.

6. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN strategic partnership. Over the past decade, relations between the two sides have come a long way. There is great interest in their future development direction, including ways to handle the South China Sea issue. How do you see the prospect of China-ASEAN relations in the next ten years?

China and ASEAN countries are linked by the same mountains and rivers and live alongside each other like members in one big family. The friendly exchanges between the two sides date back to a long time ago. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-ASEAN strategic partnership. The past

decade saw mutual respect, equality, good-neighborliness, friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation as the defining features of relations between the two sides. Indeed the relationship has already gone beyond the bilateral scope and, as the bedrock for a prosperous and stable East Asia, taken on important regional and global significance.

Pursuing a foreign policy of fostering friendship and partnership with its neighbors, China is committed to bringing more benefits to the surrounding areas with its own development. We will unswervingly take ASEAN as a priority in our neighborhood diplomacy, deepen strategic partnership with ASEAN, and work with ASEAN to safeguard peace and stability in this region, including in the South China Sea. As for the differences and disputes between countries, China has always stood for their proper resolution through friendly negotiations and dialogue, and will work unremittingly to this end. China will continue to support ASEAN’s development, its community building and its centrality in East Asia cooperation.

As emerging markets in Asia, China and ASEAN are linked together by common destiny. Moreover, we hold out much hope for sustained economic growth in the region and the world as a whole. As developing economies, both China and ASEAN face a top task of growing the economy and improving people’s livelihood. Our cooperation is aimed not only at creating broad horizon and inexhaustible business opportunities for ourselves, but also at making greater contribution to world prosperity and stability.

China-ASEAN relations have a tremendous growth potential and prospect of expansion. I suggest that the two sides work on the following in the immediate future:

First, maintain high-level exchanges, enhance strategic communication and promote mutual trust. Second, elevate the level of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area by opening up our markets still wider to each other and advancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. Third, promote connectivity, establish an investment and financing platform for infrastructure development in Asia and resolve the bottleneck in this area. Fourth, give greater role to the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund and carry out results-oriented maritime cooperation. Fifth, deepen defence and security cooperation, improve the mechanism for meetings between defence ministers of China and ASEAN countries, and actively promote exchanges and cooperation between the law enforcement and security authorities, so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in this region. Sixth, step up people-to-people exchanges at various levels, especially those involving ordinary people in the interest of strengthening mutual understanding and friendship, so as to cement the popular and society-wide support for China-ASEAN friendly and good-neighborly relations. Seventh, step up coordination in international and regional affairs, work jointly to safeguard the rights and interests of developing countries and promote democracy in international relations.

7. ASEAN countries share the hope that China will stick to the path of peaceful development and that the Chinese dream and the dreams of other countries for better life and national development will reinforce each other. What's your comment?

The Chinese nation, over the past millennia, has formed such values as universal love, non-aggression, amity with neighbors, peace being most precious and

harmony without uniformity. China has pursued a foreign policy of developing friendship and partnership with its neighbors, which has contributed significantly to Asia's stability and prosperity. In today's world, economic globalization and regional economic integration are gaining momentum and Asia has become an important engine driving world economic growth. Maintaining stability and development in Asia serves the interests of all Asian countries, China included, and China's destiny has long been closely connected with those of other Asian countries.

The Chinese people are striving to realize the Chinese dream of achieving the great renewal of the Chinese nation. Our goal is to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the centennial of the Communist Party of China and to turn China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious by the centennial of the People's Republic of China. To attain this goal, we need a peaceful and stable neighboring environment.

For us, pursuing the path of peaceful development is an inexorable choice to ensure the fundamental and long-term interests of the Chinese nation. China is firm in sticking to the path of peaceful development and will never waver in its choice.

The Chinese dream has much in common with the dreams of ASEAN countries, as they are all about achieving national development and prosperity and people's well-being and happiness. Exploiting our respective advantages and tapping our potential for win-win results, China and ASEAN countries can go hand in hand and help each other on the path toward our shared aspirations.

III. CHINESE PREMIER ATTENDS EAST ASIA LEADERS MEETINGS, VISITS BRUNEI, THAILAND, VIETNAM

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Raises Seven-Pronged Proposal on Promoting China-ASEAN Cooperation

Bandar Seri Begawan, Oct. 9 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang put forward a seven-point proposal on further broadening and deepening cooperation between his country and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The China-ASEAN relations have grown to maturity and the bilateral cooperation has got on the fast track, Li said at the 16th China-ASEAN leaders' meeting in the Bruneian capital.

He pointed out that the basis for advancing cooperation is to strengthen strategic trust and consolidate good-neighborliness, and the key to deepening cooperation is to focus on economic development and expand mutual benefit.

China and the 10-member bloc should seize opportunities and push forward their broad, deep, high-level and all-dimensional cooperation, said the Chinese premier, who also raised a seven-pronged proposal on the framework of bilateral cooperation in the coming 10 years.

First, the two sides should discuss the signing of a treaty on good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation to provide legal and institutional safeguards for bilateral strategic cooperation to move further

forward, he said.

Second, the two sides need to beef up security exchanges and cooperation, he said, adding that they should not only improve the China-ASEAN defense ministers' meeting mechanism but strengthen cooperation in such non-traditional areas as disaster prevention and relief, cyber-security and joint law enforcement.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (front) attends the 16th China-ASEAN leaders' meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Oct. 9, 2013. (Xinhua/Liu Jiansheng)

Third, the two sides should launch negotiations on upgrading their free trade area and strive to bring bilateral trade to 1 trillion U.S. dollars by 2020 so as to allow ASEAN countries to benefit more from

regional integration and China's economic growth, he added.

Fourth, China and ASEAN need to speed up the construction of inter-connectivity infrastructure, he proposed, calling for concerted efforts to set up an Asian infrastructure investment bank as a platform for financing intra-ASEAN and regional inter-

up exchanges in culture, technology, environmental protection and other areas so as to consolidate the foundation for bilateral friendly cooperation, added the Chinese premier.

These proposals, said Li, is a policy declaration of a new generation of Chinese leadership on the development of China-ASEAN relations over the next 10 years.

China will continue to work with ASEAN to cement strategic mutual trust, deepen all-dimensional cooperation, achieve common development and open a new chapter in bilateral ties, added the premier.

Li noted that since China and ASEAN established a strategic partnership 10 years ago, they have seen their political mutual trust deepening steadily, practical cooperation advancing rapidly and people-to-people

exchanges expanding consistently.

In addition, the two sides helped each other to deal with the international financial crisis and fight against major natural disasters, he said, pointing out that the record has demonstrated that advancing China-ASEAN cooperation accords with the interests of both sides.

China, he said, is willing to be ASEAN's permanent partner and friend and carry out genuine cooperation with the bloc to bring more benefits to Asia and the world at large.

ASEAN leaders spoke highly of China's



The 16th China-ASEAN leaders' meeting is held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Oct. 9, 2013. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang attended the meeting here on Wednesday. (Xinhua/Liu Jiansheng)

connectivity projects.

Fifth, the two sides should cooperate to enhance regional financial cooperation and immunity to risks, he said, suggesting that they broaden the scale and scope of their currency swap arrangement and make better use of the China-ASEAN Inter-Bank Association.

Sixth, the two sides should promote maritime cooperation, joining hands to build a 21st-century maritime Silk Road and giving priority to such areas as maritime economy, maritime inter-connectivity and environmental protection, he said.

Seventh, China and ASEAN need to rev

adherence to good-neighborliness, commitment to assisting its neighbors through self-development, and contribution to regional prosperity and stability.

Lauding Li's suggestions, they said the bloc values its ties with China, cherishes the achievements in bilateral cooperation, and is willing to chart the future course of China-ASEAN relations in line with the spirit of mutual trust and mutual benefit.

During the meeting, the two sides released a joint statement to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-ASEAN strategic partnership.

Li arrived here earlier in the day to attend the ongoing series of East Asian leaders' meetings and visit the country, the first leg of his first Southeast Asia tour since assuming premiership in March.

ASEAN, China Vow to Maintain Peace, Stability in South China Sea

Bandar Seri Begawan, Oct. 9 (Xinhua) — ASEAN and China reaffirmed here on Wednesday the importance of maintaining peace, stability and maritime security in the South China Sea, pledging to ensure a full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC).

In the Chairman's Statement of the 23rd ASEAN Summit issued here Wednesday, ASEAN said "We reaffirmed the collective commitments under the DOC to ensuring the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognized

principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities."

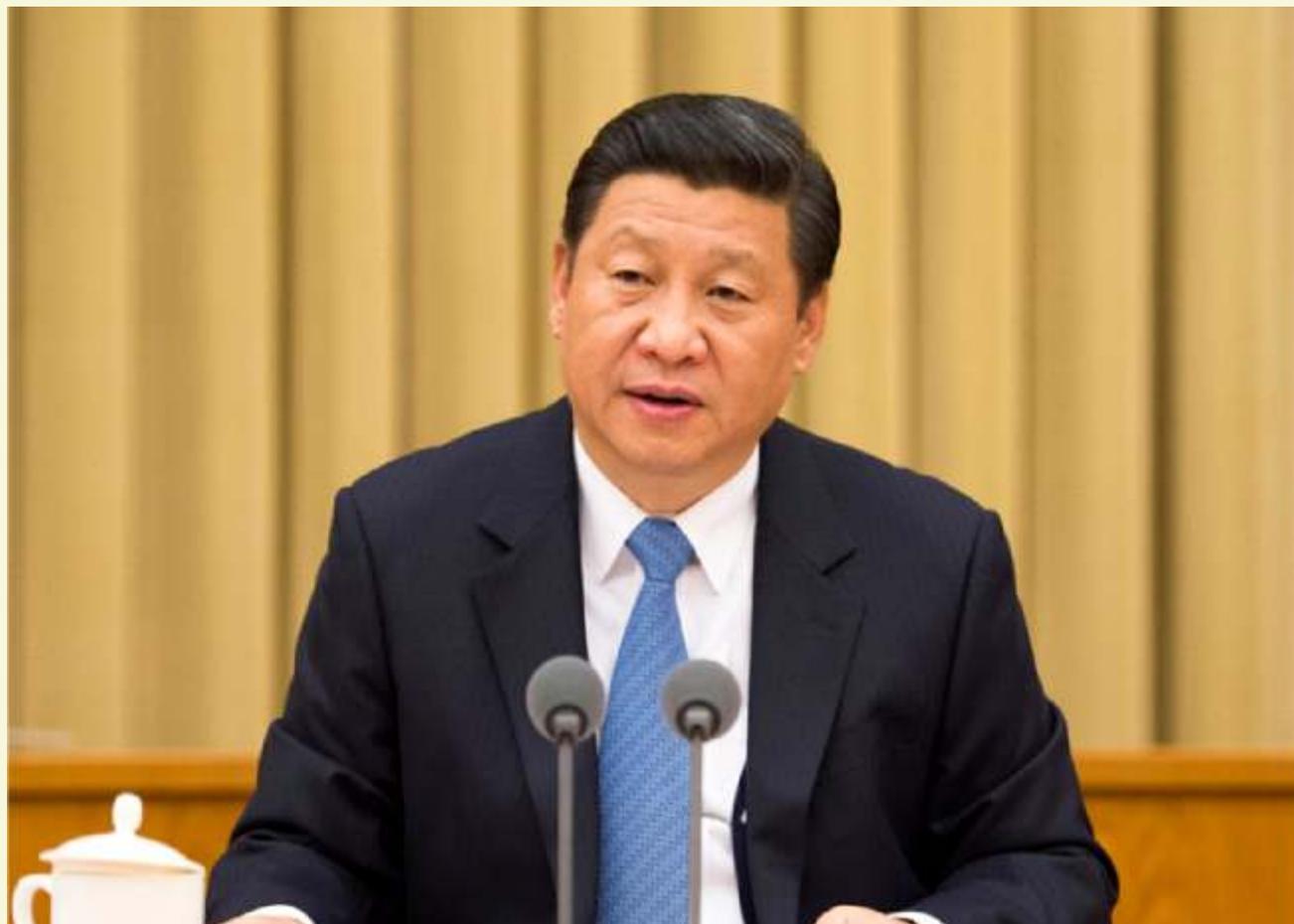
The statement said ASEAN looked forward to intensifying official consultations with China on the development of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) with a view to its early conclusion.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said Wednesday at the 16th ASEAN- China Summit here that "We must not let the



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (3rd R), Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (1st R) and Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (2nd R) attend a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of China-ASEAN strategic partnership before the 16th China-ASEAN leaders' meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Oct. 9, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

China to Further Friendly Relations with Neighboring Countries



Beijing, Oct. 25 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping has said here that China would strive for a sound neighboring environment for its own development and seek common development with neighboring countries.

At a conference in the capital on diplomatic work, Xi stressed the necessity of good diplomatic work in

neighboring countries to realize the “centenary goals” set by the 18th CPC National Congress in November 2012: a moderately prosperous society by 2021 and a prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and modern socialist country by 2049.

CPC leadership in previous generations attached high importance to diplomacy with neighboring countries,

raising important issues and guiding policy, opening up a generally sound environment, laying the foundation for diplomatic work, Xi said at the conference held on Oct. 24 and 25.

All members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee's Political Bureau attended the conference.

On the basis of ensuring continuity and stability in China's foreign policy, the CPC Central Committee actively plans and manages China's diplomacy, and carried out a series of major diplomatic activities after the 18th CPC National Conference, with particular attention to neighboring countries.

With respect to geography, the environment and intertwined relations, Xi said the neighboring region has major strategic significance. Dealing with neighboring countries "should have a three-dimensional, multi-element perspective, beyond time and space".

In reviewing China's situation, Xi said there had been lots of changes in relations between China and its neighbors. "Our economic and trade links are closer, with unprecedented interactive exchanges," he said.

"The situation requires us to keep pace with the times and be more active in blueprinting diplomatic strategy and undertaking diplomatic work," he said.

China's neighborhood, full of vigor and vitality, boasts obvious advantages and potentials in development. The region is stable on the whole, and most of the neighboring countries have a friendly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, Xi said.

In diplomacy, one must understand the trend of the time, devise strategy and plan carefully, Xi said.

The strategic goal of China's diplomacy with neighboring countries is to serve the cause of national rejuvenation, for which China must consolidate its friendly relations with neighboring countries and make the best use of the strategic opportunities China now has, according to Xi.

We must strive to make our neighbors more friendly in politics, economically more closely tied to us, and we must have deeper security cooperation and closer people-to-people ties, Xi said.

He emphasized that the basic tenet of diplomacy with neighbors is to treat them as friends and partners, to make them feel safe and to help them develop.

Friendship, suggested Xi, is the consistent principle of China's diplomacy with its neighbors and sincerity is the way to cultivate more friends and partners. Cooperation with neighbors should be based on mutual

benefit and create a close network of common interests.

Only through better integration of China's interests with neighbors' can they benefit from China's development and China benefit from theirs, Xi said.

Underlining the importance of tolerance, Xi stressed that the Asia and Pacific region is big enough for all countries to develop, and that countries in the region must promote regional cooperation in an open mind and with greater enthusiasm.

China itself must embrace and practice these ideas so that they will become the shared belief and norms of conduct for the whole region, said Xi.

Xi stressed that the Party must deal with issues strategically by making improvements to planning and operational capability, maintaining that great efforts need to be made to safeguard peace and stability in the region.

"The path of peaceful development is the Party's strategic choice, in line with the times and the fundamental interests of the country. A major purpose of this diplomacy is peace and stability in the region," Xi said.

Great efforts must be made towards win-win reciprocity, accurately identifying convergence points for cooperation; making use of China's

advantages in economy, trade, technology, and finance; and actively taking part in regional economic cooperation, Xi said. He said China should work with its neighbors to hasten interconnectivity and establish a Silk Road economic belt and a maritime silk road for the 21st century. China should accelerate establishment of free trade zones, with neighbors as the foundation stone, expand trade and investment and create a new pattern of regional economic integration.

He said China should continuously expand regional financial cooperation by playing an active role in establishing an Asian investment bank for infrastructure construction and improving the regional financial safety network.

He urged accelerating opening up of border areas and deepening reciprocal cooperation between Chinese border areas and neighboring countries.

Xi said efforts shall be made to promote regional security cooperation, noting "security cooperation is the common need of all."

A new outlook on security, featuring mutual trust, reciprocity, equality and coordination, should be adhered to, Xi said, reiterating China's push for comprehensive, common and cooperative security.

China should advance security cooperation with neighboring countries, actively participate in regional and sub-regional security cooperation, and enhance cooperation mechanisms and strategic mutual trust.

Xi also called for public diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges between China and neighbors for the long-term development of relationships. Diplomatic relations rely on the bond between the peoples, he said. People-to-people exchange should involve tourism, technology, education and sub-national cooperation, among others, to make many different kinds of friends.

“We should clearly present our policies to the outside world, tell China’s story in an acceptable way, speak out so that we are heard, and interpret the Chinese dream from the perspective of the aspiration of all people in all countries for a better life and regional prosperity, and let the sense of common destiny take root with our neighbors.

Policy and strategy are the lifeline of the party along with its diplomatic work, Xi said.

He urged keeping in mind both the domestic and international situations, noting the domestic focus is on the centenary goals and the “China Dream”

while the international objective favorable external conditions for China’s reform, development and stability, safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development, safeguarding world peace and stability and promoting common development.

“We should seek common ground and converging interests, stick to the sound value of justice and benefit, have principles to act upon, cherish friendship and righteousness, and offer more assistance to developing countries within our capacity,” Xi said.

“We should make arrangements to coordinate diplomatic work, and give full play to various departments to achieve greater progress,” he said.

Xi said diplomatic work is arduous and formidable, but called on comrades undertaking diplomatic work to enhance their senses of responsibility and urgency, and engage in disciplined diplomacy with dedication and innovation.

Chairing the conference, Premier Li Keqiang said the event was of great significance in implementing the spirit of the 18th National Congress of the CPC and making best use of an important period of strategic opportunity in China’s development.

question of the South China Sea affect the overall China-ASEAN relations.”

“We all agree that disputes in the South China Sea should be addressed through consultation and negotiation between parties directly concerned. China and ASEAN countries should work together to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea and jointly foster a favorable and more enabling environment for peaceful settlement of the disputes. Pending a settlement, parties to the dispute should work actively for joint development,” said Li.

The Chinese premier said the DOC, as an important political agreement reached between China and ASEAN countries, constitutes the cornerstone for peace and stability in the South China Sea.

He said China will continue to have consultations with ASEAN countries on formulating the COC under the framework of implementing the DOC, and will work with ASEAN countries to advance the formulation process of the COC in an active and prudent manner under the principle of consensus building.

Chinese Premier Raises Four-Point Proposal on Promoting "10+3" Cooperation

Bandar Seri Begawan, Oct. 10 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday put forward a four-pronged proposal on further deepening cooperation within a regional framework commonly known as “10+3”.

The 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), together with China, Japan and South Korea, constitute an important pillar of East Asian cooperation, Li said at the 16th “10+3” leaders’ meeting in the Bruneian capital.

As the world economic recovery remains difficult and fragile, and the Asian economic growth is still shadowed by uncertainty, the 13 nations carry a historic mission on their shoulders, he added.

In order to boost “10+3” cooperation, the parties should

first commit themselves to maintaining regional peace and stability and handling sensitive issues in the area in a proper manner,



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (4th R) poses for a group photo with other leaders at the 16th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three Summit (APT) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Oct. 10, 2013. (Xinhua/Liu Jiansheng)

he suggested.

The Chinese premier urged the 13 countries to seize and take full advantage of the historic opportunities for East Asian development and jointly safeguard the peace and stability in the region.

Second, the nations should cooperate to speed up East Asian economic integration and try to conclude the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations by 2015, he said.

Third, they need to advance the construction of a regional financial safe net and promote regional financial stability and economic development, Li said, calling for joint efforts to expand cooperation under the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization mechanism and build Asia's own monetary stabilization system, credit system, and investment and financing system.

Fourth, the 13 countries should cooperate more closely in such areas as food security and people-to-people exchanges, he said, adding that China stands ready to work with other countries to facilitate the building of various think tanks and the deepening of understanding and sympathy among the nations in the region.

Noting that the mechanism was born in the throes of the Asian financial crisis and has now weathered the storm of the international

financial crisis, Li said "10+3" cooperation has played a contributive role in promoting regional economic stability and global economic growth.

Practice has demonstrated that "10+3" cooperation is the main vehicle and main theater for East Asian cooperation, he said, urging all parties concerned to join hands to keep regional cooperation on the path of healthy development.

China, he said, is ready to work closely with other parties to open a new chapter in East Asian cooperation.

Other participants in the meeting spoke highly of the achievements the "10+3" mechanism has made over the years, and agreed that further promoting regional peace, friendship and cooperation is an important safeguard for the development of all countries in the region.

Faced with a grave external economic environment, they suggested, countries in the region should bring into full play the role of the "10+3" framework as the main vehicle for East Asian cooperation and join hands to promote regional stability and prosperity.

Li arrived here Wednesday for a series of East Asian leaders' meetings and an official visit to Brunei. The trip, his first to Southeast Asia as premier, will also take him to Thailand and Vietnam.

Chinese Premier Pledges Enhancing China, U.S. Communication, Coordination

Bandar Seri Begawan, Oct. 9 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said here Wednesday that his country stands ready to strengthen strategic communication and coordination with the United States, and

jointly promote the steady growth of world economy and safeguard world peace.

Li made the remarks when meeting with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the 16th leaders' meeting between

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Li noted that the heads of state of the two countries have reached important consensus on building a new model of major-country relations, which is conducive to pushing forward health and stable development of the bilateral relations.

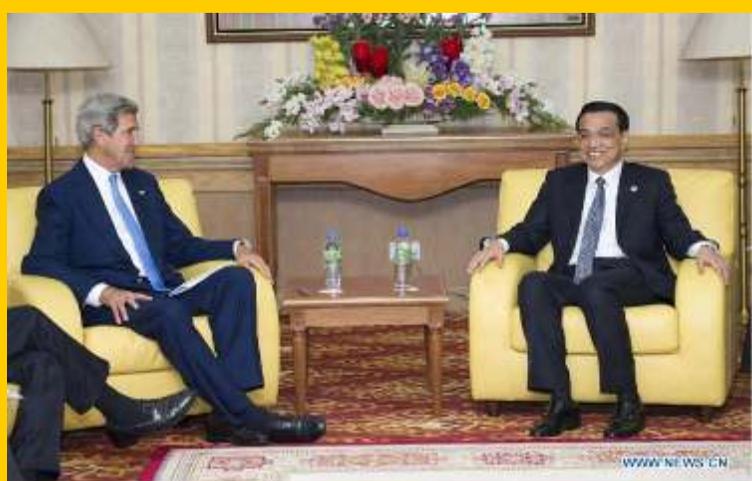
China and the United States share broad common interests, and their economies are complementary to a large extent, he said, while expressing Beijing's concern about Washington's debt-ceiling problem.

Li said that China hopes to see the U.S. relax its restrictions on China-bound high-tech exports.

For his part, Kerry said the United States welcomes the rise of China and regards China as an important cooperation partner.

Kerry said that President Barack Obama pays high attention to lifting bilateral relations.

He said his country is willing to boost strategic communication and cooperation



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R) meets with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Oct. 9, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

with China, jointly cope with challenges, and constantly enrich the content of the new model of major-country relations between the two countries.

Li arrived here earlier Wednesday for the first leg of his first Southeast Asia tour since assuming premiership in March. The trip also includes official visits to Brunei, Thailand and Vietnam.

China, Brunei Agree to Further Boost Strategic Cooperation

Bandar Seri Begawan, Oct. 11 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang left here Friday after wrapping up a productive official visit to the Southeast Asian country of Brunei.

During Li's stay, the two sides reached a broad consensus on further advancing their relations and enriching bilateral cooperation so as to lift their strategic cooperative relationship to higher levels.

The Chinese government pays high attention to the development of bilateral relations, Li said in his talks with Bruneian Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah shortly before his departure.

The premier proposed that the two sides carry out closer high-level exchanges and beef up coordination on bilateral and major international affairs.

Moreover, he urged the two countries to promote practical cooperation in such areas as infrastructure construction, agriculture and fishery and bring forth a rapid growth of two-way trade.

Particularly, he added, the two sides need to push forward energy cooperation, and encourage their enterprises to conduct joint exploration and exploitation of maritime oil and gas resources for mutual benefit.

The premier also called for closer people-to-people exchanges between the two nations so as to enhance mutual understanding and pass on the bilateral friendship from generation to generation.

Noting that Brunei holds the rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) this year, Li praised Brunei's role in ensuring the healthy and steady development of China-ASEAN relations.

For his part, Hassanal hailed the fruitful cooperation between Brunei and China in various fields and China's contribution to regional peace, stability and prosperity, saying China is an important cooperation partner of his country.

Brunei, he said, is willing to work with China to intensify strategic communication, broaden win-win cooperation and promote bilateral relations to higher levels.

Hassanal also expressed Brunei's readiness to boost energy and maritime cooperation with China for common development, and its commitment to further promoting ASEAN-China relations.

In a joint statement released after the talks, the two sides agreed to maintain frequent exchanges and strengthen bilateral

consultations at all levels on foreign policy, politics and trade, and pledged to further enhance bilateral cooperation in such areas as trade, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, culture and defense.

Brunei, said the statement, appreciates China's initiatives to upgrade the China-



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L) holds talks with Bruneian Sultan Hassanal Bolkiaah in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Oct. 11, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

ASEAN free trade area, establish an Asian infrastructure investment bank, and launch a host of projects with support from the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund.

The two sides welcomed the recent signing of a deal between China National Offshore Oil Corporation and Brunei National Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad on establishing a joint venture on oil field services.

In addition, they pledged to encourage their officials to study other aspects of joint exploration and exploitation of maritime oil and gas resources by relevant enterprises of the two countries in line with the principles of

mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

Meanwhile, they underscored the importance of resolving territorial and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea through peaceful dialogue and consultations by sovereign states directly concerned.

They reiterated their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea, stressing that consultations on a code of conduct should be pushed forward in a gradual and step-by-step manner and on the basis of consensus.

The document also conveyed Hassanal's high appreciation of China's role as a development partner of the East ASEAN Growth Area, a sub-regional economic cooperation initiative grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, and

its growing involvement in supporting economic development at the sub-regional level.

Meanwhile, the two sides reiterated their commitment to intensifying consultations on subjects of common interest in such regional and international frameworks as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the UN and the World Trade Organization.

Li arrived here Wednesday for the first leg of his maiden Southeast Asia tour as China's premier, which would also take him to Thailand and Vietnam.

While in Brunei, he attended a series of East Asian leaders' meetings, where he reaffirmed China's commitment to and expounded its policy on promoting regional cooperation and development.

Chinese Premier Makes Four-Point Proposal to Upgrade Ties with Thailand

Bangkok, Oct. 11 (Xinhua) — Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Friday made a four-pronged proposal to lift China-Thailand relations to a higher stage in a speech delivered at the Thai parliament.

Stressing the "familial affection" between the two sides, Li urged both nations to jointly plan for the future, deepen pragmatic cooperation, speed up inter-connectivity construction and enhance people-to-people exchange.

Among the proposals, he called for keeping the frequent exchange of high-level visits between the two



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers a speech at the Thai parliament in Bangkok, Thailand, Oct. 11, 2013. (Xinhua/Liu Jiansheng)

sides.

The two nations should not only implement the agreed-upon joint projects but also make long-term strategic overall planning, Li said.

To that end, he said the two sides will issue a joint press communique about the long-term vision of the development of bilateral ties to provide a roadmap for future cooperation.

The Chinese side is also willing to advance bilateral cooperation in transport, water conservancy, energy and education in accordance with Thailand's national development strategic planning, Li said.

On economy and trade ties, Li urged the two sides to implement the Joint Action Plan on China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation, and strive to meet the goal of increasing the two-way trade volume to 100 billion U.S. dollars by 2015 at an earlier date.

Thailand abounds with agricultural products such as rice, the Chinese premier said, adding that his country will support Chinese enterprises to import 1 million tons of rice from Thailand in the next five years.

Li said rubber is an important commodity in China-Thailand trade, and Beijing would consider importing more rubber from Bangkok as well, adding that the Chinese side would build a special mechanism to boost bilateral cooperation on agricultural trade.

With frequent people-to-people exchanges and closer economic ties between the two countries, China will consider the establishment of RMB clearing banks in Thailand and encourage enterprises of the two countries to settle bilateral trade in their national currencies, according to him.

Li also proposed to strengthen practical cooperation on railway projects and enhance cultural exchanges with Thailand.

He said cooperation on railway projects

could become a highlight in China-Thailand cooperation, as China has advanced capacities of building high-speed railways and rich management experience in this area.

It would facilitate logistics and boost economic development for Thailand to promote infrastructure construction such as railways, the Chinese premier said, adding that the two countries have huge potential in cooperation on railway construction.

During his stay in Thailand, Li and his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra will attend an exhibition on China's high-speed railways, hoping to conduct practical cooperation with Thailand at an earlier date.

Moreover, the two countries would vigorously carry out cooperation on electricity, power grid, and renewable energy, and push forward water conservancy construction projects, the Chinese premier said.

On cultural exchanges, he said China is ready to hold talks with Thailand over visa exemption for regular passport holders.

Thailand is the first country within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to start such talks with China, and the talks will facilitate the people-to-people exchanges of the two countries, Li said.

The Chinese premier called on both sides to give full play to the Confucius Institute and facilitate the establishment of Thailand's cultural centers in China.

China would also help Thailand to improve its professional education by the joint running of schools and short-term training, Li said, adding that both sides would promote practical cooperation in such areas as technology, maritime affairs, and environmental protection.

In the speech, the Chinese premier hailed the achievements in bilateral ties since the two

nations established diplomatic relations in 1975, including deepened political mutual trust, strengthened trade ties and closer people-to-people exchanges.

With two-way trade reaching 70 billion U.S. dollars last year, China has become Thailand's largest export market and number one source country of foreign tourists. About 3 million people travel between the two countries last year.

For China, Thailand is a major trade partner in the ASEAN region and a major source country of agricultural imports, as well as the largest source country of rubber imports.

Among ASEAN nations, Thailand was the first to sign a joint declaration on cooperation plan for the 21st century with China, the first to advance strategic cooperation with China, and the first to realize zero tariff on vegetables and fruits with China.

Thailand is also the first ASEAN nation to host a Chinese cultural center and to hold regular defense consultations with China. It will soon have more consulates in China than any other country in the world.

He said in recent years the China-Thailand

relationship has exceeded the bilateral level and played a guiding role in the development of China's relations with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a whole.

China is ready to work with Thailand to strengthen coordination on regional and multilateral cooperation, and to keep close communication and collaboration on regional and global issues, Li said.

He also assured Thai lawmakers that China is capable of meeting this year's economic and social development goals, and of maintaining sustainable and healthy economic growth in the coming years, which would provide more opportunities for Thailand and other Southeast Asian nations.

Li said the China-Thailand cooperation has entered a fast track and the bilateral friendship has been ingrained in the hearts of the two peoples.

He believed that the two-way comprehensive and mutually-beneficial cooperation will attain greater achievements and the traditional amity between two nations will be cemented by new bond.

China, Thailand Translate "Familial Affection" into Concrete Cooperation

Bangkok, Oct. 13 (Xinhua) — Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has reached wide consensus with Thai leaders on further deepening bilateral ties based on the "familial affection" between the two countries.

China-Thailand ties have played an exemplary and leading role in China's relations with the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN), Li said during a meeting here with his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the development of bilateral ties with Thailand, he said, adding that his country stands ready to expand high-level exchange of visits and pursue closer relations with the Southeast Asian country.

Beijing is also ready to work with Bangkok to implement the Joint Action Plan on China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation and a memorandum of understanding on sustainable development so as to benefit the peoples of both countries.

The Chinese premier called for full play of the mechanism of an economic and trade committee between the two countries, and closer cooperation in such areas as economy, trade, investment, agricultural trade and processing, and electricity.

China is also willing to actively participate in the construction of high-speed railways in Thailand and promote regional inter-connectivity.

In order to deepen financial cooperation, Li encouraged the enterprises of the two countries to settle bilateral trade in RMB, and explore the increase in the size of bilateral currency swap, saying that China will consider the establishment of RMB clearing banks in Thailand.

Meanwhile, he called for closer people-to-people exchanges, start of talks on visa exemption for regular passport holders and strengthened cooperation in culture and education so as to promote the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R front), accompanied by his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra, visits the site of the Royal Flora International Horticultural Exposition in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Oct. 12, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

China is now the largest trading partner of Thailand, with bilateral trade reaching nearly 70 billion U.S. dollars last year and targeting 100 billion dollars by 2015.

Thailand is China's second largest trading partner in the 10-member ASEAN, and serves as the country coordinator for China-ASEAN relations.

Tao Wenzhao, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said China's ever-expanding economic

strength is a strong backing for building regional integration, adding that China's fast economic growth will continue contributing to regional economy.

During Li's visit to Thailand, the two countries agreed, in a joint document issued on Friday, that their relations have entered a new stage since they forged the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in 2012.

China and Thailand have agreed on a multi-pronged proposal to advance bilateral practical cooperation in various fields, in order to benefit the two peoples and make contributions to peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the world at large.

Regarding the South China Sea issue, the

two countries hold that disputes should be peacefully resolved by sovereign countries directly concerned through friendly consultation and negotiation based on international law.

Pending the final settlement, all relevant parties should shelve disputes and seek joint development of the sea.

China will work more closely with Thailand to effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and boost consultations on a code of conduct in the South China Sea based on the principle of consensus-building, so as to make it a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Ruan Zongze, vice president of the China Institute of International Studies, said the South China Sea issue would not be an obstacle to the development of relations between China and ASEAN countries.

During his stay here, Li frequently stressed the “familial affection” between

China and Thailand, asking both countries to jointly plan for the future, deepen practical cooperation, speed up inter-connectivity construction and enhance people-to-people exchanges.

China would use its investment and high-speed railway technology to help Thailand build hi-tech facilities that would consequently contribute to regional inter-connectivity.

In his visit to a Chinese language-teaching school in Chiang Mai, Li called for more Chinese education resources and opportunities to Thai students.

While in Thailand, Li also met the Thai royal family in Bangkok and the site of the Royal Flora International Horticultural Exposition in Chiang Mai.

Later Friday, the Chinese premier left Thailand for an official visit to Vietnam, the third and last leg of his maiden trip to Southeast Asia since he took office in March.

China, Vietnam Agree to Deepen Partnership Along Three Tracks

Hanoi, Oct. 13 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Tan Dung, agreed on Sunday to further deepen the partnership between their two countries simultaneously along three tracks of maritime, onshore and financial cooperation.

During their talks, the two sides committed themselves to setting up in parallel three joint work groups respectively in charge of the three areas and setting them in motion within the year so as to push forward bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both sides.

The three-track approach is an important breakthrough for the future development of bilateral ties, Li said, stressing that the establishment of a maritime cooperation work group is a positive signal of the two countries’ readiness to solve their disputes through cooperation.

Expounding on China’s basic considerations about the three areas of cooperation, Li said the creation of the maritime work group is aimed at advancing China-Vietnam joint development at sea.

He urged the two sides to pursue

substantive progress in their joint development in waters out of the mouth of the Beibu Bay, a semi-enclosed sea whose delimitation remains under negotiation between China and Vietnam, and accumulate experience for broader maritime cooperation.

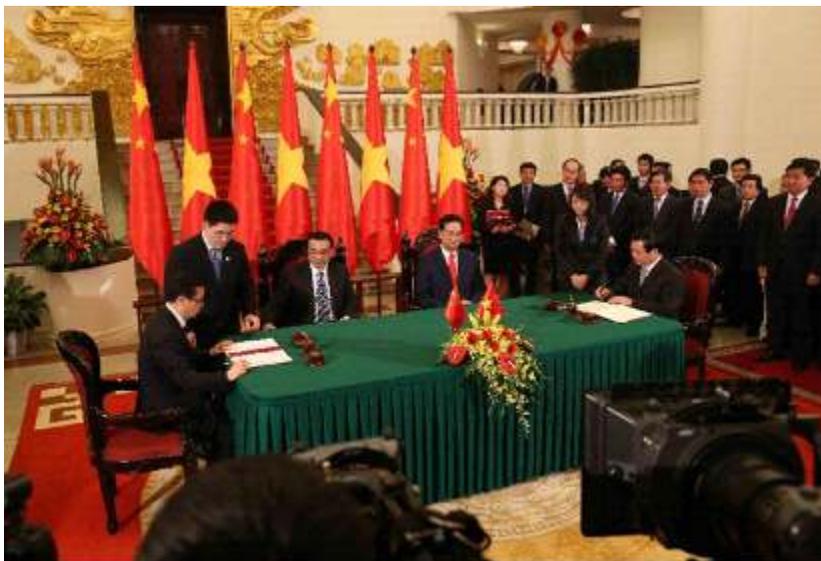
The two neighbors, the premier reiterated, should stick to the path of friendly consultation and negotiation in the process of resolving their disputes.

As regards to onshore cooperation, the two sides need to improve strategic planning with the establishment of a work group on infrastructure cooperation, Li said, while calling for concerted efforts to promote practical cooperation in such areas as inter-connectivity, trade and investment.

On the financial front, Li said, the joint work group on financial cooperation should lead the two sides to the signing of a bilateral currency swap deal and a local currency settlement agreement, so as to help safeguard the economic development and financial stability of both countries and the region at large.

Meanwhile, China is ready to work with Vietnam to consolidate the public support for bilateral relations through more people-to-people exchanges and closer cultural and educational cooperation, he added.

Calling China and Vietnam friendly neighbors, Li pointed out that a healthy steady development of bilateral ties is not only in line with the interests of both peoples but also conducive to regional peace,



Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L, back) and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Tan Dung witness the signing of a series of bilateral cooperation documents after their talks in Hanoi, Vietnam, Oct. 13, 2013. (Xinhua/Liu Weibing)

development and prosperity.

The two sides should steer their relations forward in the right direction and adhere to the path of win-win cooperation, he said, adding that they should also have an innovative mind in addressing their South China Sea dispute, which is now the only thorny historic leftover in bilateral relations.

For his part, Dung welcomed Li's official visit, and conveyed his country's gratitude for China's long-running, enormous and valuable support for Vietnam.

Expressing his full agreement with Li's proposals on further developing bilateral ties, the Vietnamese prime minister said his country attaches great importance to its relations with China.

Vietnam, he added, is ready to work with China to further enhance high-level contact, deepen political mutual trust and advance maritime, onshore and financial cooperation so as to achieve positive results at an early date.

Meanwhile, Vietnam will join hands with China to strengthen communication and coordination on global and regional issues, properly handle their differences, and push for closer Vietnam-China friendship and more fruitful bilateral cooperation, he said.

The prime minister also expressed Vietnam's willingness to play a positive role in promoting the relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China.

Following their talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of a series of bilateral cooperation documents.

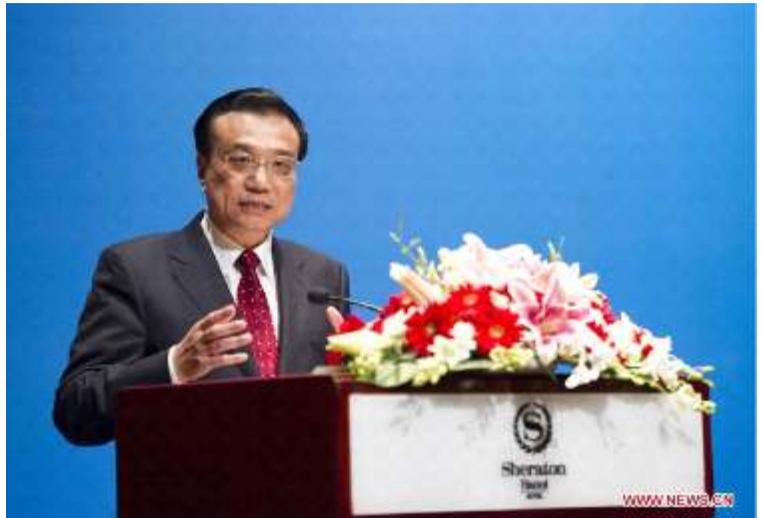
Chinese Premier Li Raises Four-point Proposal on Upgrading China-Vietnam Business Cooperation

Hanoi, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday laid out a four-pronged proposal on further deepening business cooperation between his country and Vietnam.

The rapidly growing economic and trade cooperation between China and Vietnam boasts great potential, and their common interests far outweigh their differences, Li said at a luncheon attended by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and representatives of the two countries' business communities.

He urged the two countries to integrate their development strategies and accelerate the expansion of their economic and trade cooperation with a market-oriented, enterprise-centered approach.

First, the two sides need to advance their overall cooperation, Li said, adding that he and his Vietnamese counterpart have agreed on forming three work groups to simultaneously advance maritime, onshore and financial cooperation.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang speaks at a luncheon attended by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and representatives of the two countries' business communities, in Hanoi, Vietnam, Oct. 15, 2013. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

Li said the consensus on the three-track approach heralds a better business environment for the enterprises of both countries, and will boost investor confidence and infuse new vigor into China-Vietnam cooperation.

Second, the two countries should promote trade facilitation, set in motion a related joint work group within the year, and strive to raise

bilateral trade to 100 billion U.S. dollars by 2017, proposed the premier.

Noting that trade growth requires robust financial support, he said China stands ready to work with Vietnam to expand the scale of bilateral currency swap and local currency settlement so as to help advance the liberalization and facilitation of bilateral trade and investment.

Third, Li called on the two countries to boost mutual investment, saying that his country assigns priority to transportation, communications, energy and other interconnectivity-building projects, encourages Chinese enterprises to invest in Vietnam, and welcomes investment by Vietnamese businesses.

Fourth, China and Vietnam need to deepen cooperation under the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said the premier.

He said that at the series of East Asian leaders' meetings last week, he made a seven-pronged proposal on the framework of China-ASEAN cooperation in the next decade, and

that negotiations are set to begin on upgrading the China-ASEAN free trade area.

On China's economic performance, the premier said that, with the Chinese economy growing steadily on the basis of stability, China is fully able to achieve this year's major socioeconomic development targets.

China will stick firmly to the path of economic reform, and China's development will provide Vietnam and the region at large with a huge market and a multitude of development opportunities, Li added.

For his part, Dung noted that economic and trade cooperation is an important pillar in the edifice of bilateral friendship and that the two sides benefit from each other's development.

The latest consensus between the two sides will further consolidate the foundation for future expansion of bilateral cooperation in various fields, he said, adding that Vietnam is willing to create a more favorable environment for Chinese enterprises to invest in the country.

Chinese Premier Li Gives Joint Written Interview to Media from ASEAN Countries

Beijing, Oct. 8 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang gave a joint written interview to media from countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ahead of his official visit to Brunei, Thailand and Vietnam as well as his attendance to the East Asia leaders' meetings.

Following is the full text of the interview:

Question: This year marks the 10th anniversary of China-ASEAN strategic

partnership. How do you evaluate the achievements of this relationship over the past decade? What tangible benefits has this relationship brought to the two sides?

Answer: This year is indeed worthy of celebration for China and ASEAN. Ten years ago, China took the lead in acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and established the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity with

ASEAN. It was also the first time for China to establish a global strategic partnership with an organization of nations within this region, which highlights the importance of ASEAN on China's diplomatic agenda. Against the backdrop of evolving international situation and growing world economy amid adjustments over the past decade, China and ASEAN have seized the opportunities, advanced with the trend of peace and development, and opened a "golden decade" of cooperation.

Over the past decade, China and ASEAN have stayed committed to strategic dialogue, enhanced political mutual trust, and strengthened mutual understanding and support in many important international and regional affairs. Over the past decade, China and ASEAN have advanced practical cooperation and set up the world's largest free trade area among developing countries. China is now ASEAN's biggest trading partner and ASEAN China's third largest trading partner. Last year, two-way trade exceeded US\$400 billion, five times that of ten years ago; mutual investment totaled over US\$100 billion, three times that of ten years ago. Over the past decade, China and ASEAN have increased people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Exchange of visits reached 15 million last year, four times that of ten years ago. China has become ASEAN's second largest source of tourists, and over 1,000 flights shuttle between the two sides every week. Over the past decade, China and ASEAN have stood side by side in times of adversity. On the basis of successfully fending off the Asian financial crisis, the two sides properly responded to the international financial crisis, and helped each other in tackling such major natural disasters and epidemics as the Indian Ocean tsunamis, the

SARS epidemic and earthquakes.

The China-ASEAN strategic partnership has made such good progress as it serves the fundamental interests of both sides and complies with the trend of the times for peace, development and cooperation in the region. As long as we stay on the right course, and uphold the principles of mutual respect, equality, good-neighborliness and mutual benefit, as long as we continue to work together to maintain regional peace and stability, and deepen regional cooperation to drive economic development and improve people's livelihood, the China-ASEAN strategic partnership is bound to make even further progress and bring greater benefits to our region and people of various countries.

Question: China-ASEAN relations have experienced a "golden decade". What do you think are the focus and growth areas for this relationship in the future?

Answer: Reviewing past development and looking into the future, we can see that China-ASEAN relationship now stands at a new historical starting point. We need to build on the achievements of the "golden decade", explore new strategic breakthroughs, and jointly build a closer China-ASEAN community of common destiny. To this end, we will propose a framework for wide-ranging, deep and high-level cooperation between China and ASEAN in the next decade so as to take our cooperation to a new height and bring more benefits to people in this region.

To achieve the goals under this framework of cooperation, I believe we need to focus our efforts in the following areas:

First, we need to remain committed to building good-neighborly relations. China is ready to actively discuss with ASEAN countries the signing of a treaty on good-

neighborliness, friendship and cooperation to consolidate the political foundation for our strategic mutual trust.

Second, we need to strengthen exchange and cooperation in the security field. We need to improve the mechanism of ASEAN-China defense ministers' meeting and deepen cooperation in disaster prevention and relief, cyber security, combating transnational crimes, joint law enforcement and other non-traditional security fields.

Third, we need to build an "upgraded version" of the China-ASEAN FTA. We need to take concrete steps in trade in goods, trade in services, investment cooperation and other areas to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and achieve the goal of one trillion US dollars of two-way trade by 2020.

Fourth, we need to push forward connectivity and step up the linkage between "software" and "hardware". China proposes to establish an Asian infrastructure investment bank and meet, on a priority basis, some ASEAN countries' need for financial support in infrastructure building.

Fifth, we need to strengthen financial cooperation to jointly guard against new risks. We need to increase the size and scope of bilateral currency swap, expand the pilot program of settling cross-border trade with local currencies and enhance cooperation on the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization.

Sixth, we need to build a maritime cooperation partnership, intensify practical cooperation on marine economy, especially fishery, and in other areas such as maritime connectivity, marine environment protection and scientific research, and maritime search and rescue, and work together to build the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st century.

Seventh, we need to boost cultural

exchanges. The two sides should jointly formulate the China-ASEAN Cultural Cooperation Action Plan to facilitate exchanges in culture and education, and between youth, think tanks and the media.

In a few days, I will attend the East Asia Leaders' meetings in Brunei. It will be my first visit to ASEAN countries as the Chinese Premier. I look forward to exchanging views with leaders of other participating countries on issues of common interest and, in particular, to hearing their views on the above-mentioned seven proposals. Together, we will build new consensus on elevating the China-ASEAN strategic partnership.

Question: As China enjoys sustained and rapid growth and gains in national strength, China's neighbors have naturally shown doubts and concerns about whether China will seek hegemony once it gets strong. What is the foreign policy of the new Chinese government towards China's neighbors? And what is your view on deepening East Asia cooperation?

Answer: It is understandable that such questions are raised. In the history of international relations, there are quite a few stories of big powers vying for hegemony. We therefore understand the concerns of our neighbors, for, after all, China is, in all measures, a major country in Asia.

However, time has changed. In the 21st century, the trend toward peace and development has gained momentum. China has developed in such a peaceful environment and is heading toward national renewal in a peaceful way. We have no reason to change our path of peaceful development. China's cultural values uphold the principle of "not doing to others what you don't want others to do to you". Like many other Asian countries, China suffered deeply from the

colonial rule and invasion of Western powers. Since the founding of New China, China has firmly adhered to the policy of opposing hegemonism and power politics. The Chinese nation has no such tradition as seeking hegemony or expansion. And in the past several thousand years, the Chinese nation has developed such philosophy as treating your neighbors amicably, valuing peace above anything else and cherishing harmony in diversity. They constitute the historical foundation for China's policy of building friendship and partnership with its neighbors. China will in no way follow the old pattern of "seeking hegemony after becoming strong".

As a member of the big Asian family, China's destiny is closely linked with those of other Asian countries. China needs a peaceful and stable neighboring environment for development. We will always work for good neighborly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with our neighbors, and will properly manage differences and disagreements with them. ASEAN is a priority on China's diplomatic agenda regarding the neighborhood. We will firmly support ASEAN in growing stronger and playing a leading role in East Asia cooperation. East Asia cooperation has brought tangible benefits to the region. No matter how the situation may change, a peaceful and stable environment in East Asia must be maintained and our efforts will focus on development and on improving people's lives. At present, we need to concentrate on tackling the underlying impact of the global financial crisis and maintain the momentum of sustained development. As for the direction of East Asia cooperation, China calls for adhering to the "East Asia cooperation spirit", upholding the principles of ASEAN

centrality, consensus building and accommodating the comfort level of all parties, which have proved to be effective, and promoting a regional cooperation model with East Asian features. There are multiple regional cooperation frameworks and mechanisms in East Asia. This meets the reality of diversity in the region. China actively supports and participates in cooperation under these mechanisms, and is committed to building a mutually complementary, open and inclusive cooperation environment.

Question: How do you see the impact of the South China Sea question on China-ASEAN relations?

Answer: On the question of the South China Sea, China and ASEAN countries have had many in-depth discussions and reached consensus. As long as we stay committed to this consensus and act in accordance with mutually-agreed principles, the South China Sea region will stay peaceful and stable.

The core of the South China Sea question is the disputes over the sovereignty of some islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands and the delimitation disputes over some waters in the South China Sea. It is a difficult question built over years, involving the bilateral differences between China and some ASEAN countries. The Chinese government is firmly committed to the path of peaceful development, and is unshakable in its resolve to uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is why China has persistently sought dialogue with relevant countries and ASEAN to explore effective ways for upholding regional stability. The Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), signed among China and ASEAN countries in 2002 is a fundamental document for maintaining peace and stability in the

South China Sea. The DOC has established a series of important principles, including: settling relevant disputes by peaceful means; pending the settlement of disputes, the parties concerned undertake to exercise restraint and refrain from carrying out activities that could complicate or escalate disputes; and conducting practical cooperation. These principles reflect the wisdom of Asian countries in handling complicated problems and represent the biggest common interests of all countries. These hard-won principles have provided indispensable conditions for the robust cooperation and economic prosperity in this region. The DOC should be observed and upheld in real earnest. China and ASEAN countries should stick to dialogue and cooperation and effectively safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.

China is always firm in upholding peace and security. This meets its own need of development and serves the interests of East Asia. We are deeply aware that without a secure environment, economic development and prosperity would be out of the question. The South China Sea is an important international shipping lane. As a big trading nation, China depends heavily on the unimpeded access and safety of international sea lanes, and also shoulders responsibilities in this regard. Therefore, China places high importance on the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and cares deeply about ensuring the safety of navigation there. The truth is, the territorial disputes in the South China Sea have not affected the international shipping lane. China will continue to actively advocate and participate in regional maritime cooperation, including maritime security cooperation, and uphold peace and tranquility in this region.

Question: China's economic development

has drawn high attention of other countries. Could you brief us on China's current economic situation and its impact on ASEAN and other East Asian countries?

Answer: World economic recovery now faces difficulties and there are also many uncertainties in the Asian economy. In the face of the complex international and domestic situation and downward economic pressure, the Chinese government has stood its ground and responded in a calm way. We have maintained stability in and innovated on our macroeconomic policies. On the one hand, we have refrained from expanding fiscal deficit, and neither eased nor tightened monetary policy. On the other hand, we have taken a series of creative policy measures to boost reform, energize the market, adjust the economic structure, and have seized every opportunity to transform and upgrade the economy. These measures are in line with the goal of maintaining steady growth and have effectively kept the economy on an even keel. In the first six months of this year, China's GDP grew by 7.6%, and employment rate and overall prices were both stable. Since July, major economic indicators have rebounded, the real economy has been dynamic and market confidence has increased. The Chinese economy now enjoys a strong momentum of steady growth.

China's development is closely linked to that of the world. Over the past 30 years, the Chinese economy has benefited a great deal from opening up. China's rapid growth has also contributed much to East Asia and the world. In the future, with parallel advancement of industrialization, IT application, a new type of urbanization and modern agriculture, China stands a good chance of sustained and sound growth, and will continue to release reform dividends,

market potential and innovative vitality. It is projected that in the next five years, China's import will reach US\$10 trillion, its outbound investment will top US\$500 billion and its overseas visits will exceed 400 million. China hopes to share with ASEAN and other East Asian countries such tremendous business

opportunities and make greater contribution to the development of ASEAN, other East Asian countries and the world. We hope other countries will all play an active part in this process and create greater conditions and a better environment for our cooperation.

IV. DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

China Builds Pilot Free Trade Zone to Further Open Up

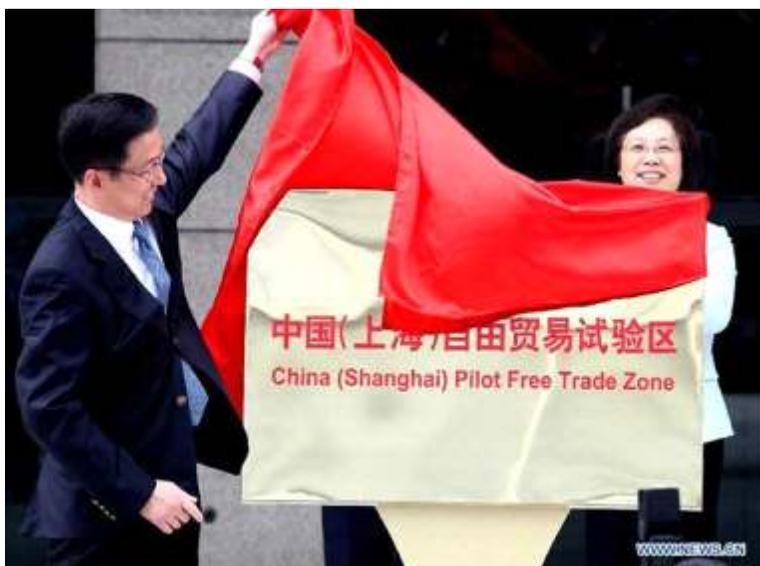
by Miao Miao (China Features)

China's State Council has approved the establishment of a pilot free trade zone in Shanghai, according to a Ministry of Commerce statement. The general development plan is to be decided in mid-September and the zone will be formally set up by the end of September.

Covering 28.78 square kilometers, The Shanghai free trade zone will be built on the basis of existing bonded zones — Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone, Waigaoqiao Free Trade Logistics Park, Yangshan Free Trade Port Area and Pudong Airport Comprehensive Free Trade Zone.

The zone will be the first of its kind on the Chinese mainland. It will take about three years to build to meet international standards.

The pilot zone is a crucial move in



An inauguration ceremony is held for the operation of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone at the Waigaoqiao Bonded Area in Shanghai (east China) Sept. 29, 2013 (Xinhua / Chen Fei)

adapting to global economic and trade development and imposing a more proactive opening-up strategy, said the statement, adding it will help explore a new path for China's opening up, speed up transformation

of government functions and promote economic restructuring.

The zone will also help foster China's global competitiveness and serve as a new platform for the nation's cooperation with other countries, and contribute to efforts in building "an upgraded version of China's economy," said the statement.

Besides, China will adopt a "negative list" approach in the foreign investment management in the zone, and innovate the country's opening-up mode, said the statement.

Zhu Jianfang, chief economist at Citic Securities, said the "negative list" approach, which the zone will adopt, showed a thinking of power delegation.

"We can no longer rely on preferential policies to improve business and the investment environment. Rather, we should attract investment with highly efficient and transparent administrative services," said Zhang Youwen, an economic researcher at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

In the free trade zone, the reforms featuring power delegation will be deepened, and financial, business, cultural, education and medical services, which faced many restrictions before, are expected to enjoy more development opportunities, analysts said.

Experiments in the financial sector will be the most important part, such as the marketization of interest rates and exchange rate, and offshore finance, said Xu Quan, deputy head of the Shanghai Municipal Office of Finance Service.

Meanwhile, a State Council plan to suspend some laws governing foreign investment in the Shanghai pilot free trade zone will break new ground in China's investment management mechanism and boost foreign capital inflow, said analysts.

The aim is to cancel superfluous administrative procedures and make it easier for foreign firms to set up in the zone. The plan conflicts with some existing laws so the idea was mooted to simply suspend the problematic regulations.

"The free trade zone is not a special zone or new area. Its significance lies not in striving for preferential policies but in establishing a new system in line with international standards and realizing highly efficient management in sectors like investment and trade," said Zhou Zhenhua, director of the Shanghai Municipal Government Development Research Center.

China has rapidly grown into a global manufacturing power with its entry into the World Trade Organization, but the country remains relatively backward in service industries like financing, shipping,



A view of Shanghai Bund (file photo/Xinhua News Agency)

commerce, trade and culture, compared with developed nations, experts said.

Shanghai is leading the country in service industry development and the further opening up of the sector is the best choice for the city, according to Chen Bo, an economic and trade expert at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

As Shanghai was announced to build China's first free trade zone, more Chinese cities are planning to pilot free trade zone so as to enjoy the policy dividends.

Northern China's port city Tianjin is

planning to set up a free trade port in its Dongjiang bonded port.

Aside from Tianjing, other cities, such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chongqing, Xiamen, Qingdao, and Zhoushan, were also planning to apply for the establishment of free trade zones.

As for this momentum, experts suggest that the set up of any other free trade zone should follow scientific planning and rational overall arrangement, other than advancing too quickly.

Internet Empowers China

by Gui Tao, Wang Ruoyao, Mao Pengfei (China Features)

In 1987, the first e-mail from China read: "Across the Great Wall we can reach every corner in the world". A quarter of a century later, the Internet is reshaping every corner of China.

POWERING THE ECONOMY

At the China Internet Conference in Beijing in August, visitors queued at the vending machines.

One young man wanting a bottle of water scanned a QR code with WeChat, a messaging app on his cell phone. At a beep, he punched in his bank ID number and the purchase was completed in seconds.

"It bridges online payment and offline consumption," he said, "When all the shopping malls provide this payment by scanning, I won't need my wallet or even a credit

card."

WeChat, owned by Chinese Internet giant Tencent, came into market two years ago. With 400 million users, it is pioneering new roads in China's lucrative e-commerce market.

"Internet-related consumption of



information products and services together with e-commerce are becoming the two biggest drivers of China's economic growth and restructuring," says Liang Chunxiao, vice president of the country's leading online trading platform company, Alibaba Group.

He predicts that online retail revenues will account for more than 16 percent of China's total social sales in 2020 when the total e-commerce value will exceed 28.8 trillion yuan (4.7 trillion U.S. dollars).

"E-commerce will boost related sectors such as logistics and raw materials, and help release the consumption potential in many remote areas," Liang says.

China's Internet economy will account for 6.9 percent of its GDP in 2016, up from 5.5 percent in 2010, according to a research report by the Boston Consulting Group last year.

Guidelines from the State Council, China's Cabinet, released in August said Internet-related consumption of information products and services is expected to reach 2.4 trillion yuan (392 billion U.S. dollars) in 2015, rising by more than 30 percent a year.

China's Internet users reached 590 million in the first half of this year, and 80 percent use their smartphones to go online. More businesses are recognizing the online potential of China's huge consumer market.

Home appliance retailer Suning, footwear manufacturing Xtep and commercial real estate developer Insite Space, businesses that once seemed unlikely to make an impact on the digital world, all participated in the Internet Conference.

The impact of Internet industry has just begun, says GaoXinmin, vice president of the

Internet Society of China. "It will be ubiquitous in a few years. It will revolutionize all industries, and catalyze China's economic rebalancing and industrial upgrade."

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

China's netizens have formed a powerful force that serves as an informal watchdog that digs, spots and exposes officials in their words, misconduct and suspicious behavior.



Their power as an anti-corruption force was demonstrated when Liu Tienan was removed from his post as Vice Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission in May and put under judicial investigation in August.

Many believe Liu's sacking was a result of efforts by Luo Changping, a deputy editor of Caijing magazine, to expose Liu's alleged wrongdoing on the Internet in December.

The 58-year-old official was one of a series of officials brought down by Internet whistleblowing. In November, Lei Zhengfu was dismissed as Party chief of the southwestern Chongqing City's Beibei District after independent investigative journalist Zhu Ruifeng revealed he was

involved in a sex scandal.

The landmark downfall of Liu suggests the ruling party welcomes netizens to join the anti-corruption campaign in a rational, legal way and encourages them to report wrongdoing under their real names, says Zhou Shuzhen, a politics professor at Renmin University of China.

From April 19, major news and commercial portals provided links on their homepages to official tip-off websites of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and the Party's organization department, as well as the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Supreme People's Court and the Ministry of Land and Resources.

Daily page views of the five websites more than tripled and the number of reports they received almost doubled, according to statistics issued by the State Internet Information Office.

Chinese people traditionally write

complaint letters, pay petition visits or dial hotlines to report corruption and other misconduct by officials. However, the Internet has empowered them to fight corruption and to shine a light on official wrongdoing.

These exposures have triggered investigations by media and disciplinary authorities into possible corruption or other wrongful behavior by officials.

Liu Hongyi, deputy secretary of the National School of Administration branch of the Communist Party of China, says the public has always been concerned about corruption, and the Internet gives them a channel to release what they find.

"Easy access to public opinion has served as an additional pair of fists for the government to crack down on corruption, leaving corrupt officials nowhere to hide," says Liu.

"Like living in a fish tank, he or she is being watched all the time."

Leveling the Playing Field

by Li Li

Sitting the once-a-year National College Entrance Exam and getting a high score are believed to be the only path to attend prestigious universities in China. However, a recent study shows that being male increases the chances due to discriminatory enrollment practices.

In August, the Media Monitor for Women Network, a Beijing-based non-governmental organization for protecting women's rights, released a report on gender discrimination in college recruitment of undergraduate

students. The report concluded that at least 74 of China's 112 national key universities and colleges have listed discriminating requirements in their admission policies. The study confined its data collection to information on official websites of these universities and colleges and reports by major media organizations.

A Long Struggle

The sexual bias in college admission was widely reported for the first time in 2005.

Peking University, one of the best internationally ranked universities in China, was reported to impose high score standards on female candidates when recruiting for majors of less popular foreign languages, such as Vietnamese, Korean and Thai. In that year, the university announced in July that its lowest admission score for science students from Beijing was 619 for males and 636 for females. In response to waves of criticism, Liu Shuxiong, then Associate Dean of the School of Foreign Languages of Peking University, argued that the school needed to maintain a sex ratio among its students, of whom more than 70 percent were female.

Liu, also a professor of Hindi, said that he was teaching a class of 15 students, with only two males.

In 2006, the Ministry of Education (MOE) imposed a ban on setting sex ratios during college recruitment without its authorization. However, several newspapers reported in July 2012 that in the early decision stage of admission, some universities accepted male and female students separately to maintain a gender ratio, resulting in a skewed playground for girls. Administrators of some universities even told the media that such an admission policy was to limit the number of female students.

On July 9, 2012, Lu Pin, chief of the Media Monitor for Women Network, and lawyer Wang Yizhi respectively sent an application to the MOE, demanding the disclosure of

information on which majors from which universities had been authorized to set a gender ratio in admission and on what basis.

The MOE responded to them a month later, saying that “some majors in a small

number of universities are allowed to maintain a gender ratio when admitting students out of the concerns for national interests and their special needs.” The reply stressed that these universities must clearly list such a gender-balance concern in their enrollment plans.

On August 30, 2012, four women shaved their heads bald in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, in protest against the ambiguous response of the MOE. They also demanded knowing the “special needs”

in their petition.

On October 15, 2012, the MOE wrote a letter in response to a women’s legal aid organization based in Beijing and divided the majors alleged to have special needs into three categories, those concerning special vocations with gender ratio requirements, such as majors of national defense and public security; those unsuitable for women out of health concerns, such as majors of sailing and mining; and those with limited educational resources and gender-balanced demands in the labor market, such as majors of less popular foreign languages and broadcast journalism.

The Chinese People’s Public Security University admitted a total of 1,840 students for undergraduate studies in 2012, only 214 or



A high school graduate and her mother attend a college admission consultation fair in Zhengzhou, Henan Province .

11.63 percent were female.

Rong Weiye, a professor at the university, said that this can be partly attributed to misconceptions that female police officers are less courageous than their male colleagues. She admitted that in reality female officers do face limits when performing certain tasks.

In January, Sun Xiaobin, a senior MOE official from the Department of Policies and Regulations, said in an interview that the ministry would further limit the gender requirement against women in college recruitment.

In May, the MOE issued regulations on college recruitment for 2013, saying that only some special institutions and majors concerning military, national defense and public security are allowed to exercise an enrollment gender ratio.

After the college recruitment for 2013 started in early July, Beijing Language and Culture University, Renmin University of China and Beijing Foreign Studies University, all canceled their gender ratio in recruiting students for majors of less popular foreign languages, which resulted in the admission of even fewer males. For example, Renmin University of China recruited 14 students for majors of less popular foreign languages in Beijing this year and only three were male.

No Quick Change

In the enrollment plans announced by universities this year, Dalian Maritime University and Wuhan University of Technology both required applicants to their major of maritime navigation to be male. Beihang University and Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics limited the studies of aviator to only men. Jilin University and China University of Mining and Technology described their mining major as "suitable for male applicants." Chang'an

University advised females to "exercise caution" when applying for its geotechnical and tunnel engineering major.

Qinghai University said in its enrollment plan that exploration geophysics, survey and mapping as well as geology majors would limit female students below 10 percent of their new recruits. China University of Political Science and Law and Zhongnan University of Economics and Law both announced to limit their female recruits for majors related to public security to no more than 15 percent of the total.

While women in general are at a disadvantaged position in being accepted by universities, male students looking to become a nurse also face a slim chance. At least seven universities clearly stated in their enrollment plans that their nursing major prefers female candidates.

For a long time in the 20th century, male dominance was clear among recipients of higher education in China due to the fact that poorer families usually only sent their sons to school. However, with the increase in government financial aid programs and overall improvement of people's living standards, such a trend has changed. In the decade between 1995 and 2004, the proportion of female college students rose from 35.4 percent to 45.7 percent.

In 2007, among newly recruited students for undergraduate studies, the number of females for the first time surpassed that of males, accounting for 52.9 percent of enrollment. Since then, the proportion of female freshmen has been steadily climbing. By contrast, according to results of the sixth national population census conducted in 2011, males accounted for 51.27 percent of China's total population. Some experts said that an important reason that higher

education favors women than men is that girls perform better in the score-oriented education system in China.

Yan Lieshan, a famous news commentator in Guangzhou, even once wrote that universities setting a sex ratio during enrollment should not be regarded as discriminating against women at all as the current National College Entrance Exam puts a lot emphasis on mechanical memory, which leaves males at a natural disadvantage. Yan added that giving males preferential treatment during enrollment was only fair and necessary.

Lu from the Media Monitor for Women Network said that she disagreed with people like Yan. "If women are naturally better at the studies of certain disciplines and men are better at others, why universities mostly limit the number of female students in majors traditionally with more female candidates," she argued.

Lu said that although gender discrimination in college enrollment affects a large number of female students with high scores at the National College Entrance Exam, very few of them are willing to condemn such unfair practice in public.

"These young women accepted such a change of their fate silently and switched to other majors or universities. Their parents also advised them to stay out of trouble," Lu said.

Guo Jianmei, Director of a Beijing-based legal aid organization for women, told the Legal Weekly newspaper that although five lawyers of her organization are willing to offer free service to women in anti-discrimination lawsuits, they don't have many clients.

She said that due to the influence of an anti-lawsuit culture, very few Chinese people would like to defend their rights by taking their concerns to court.

Guo said that she was not confident of winning such cases even if there were plaintiffs. "As a victory in these cases would bring an upheaval to China's education administrative system, concerned government departments would exert pressure to thwart investigation and prosecution procedures," she noted.

Xiong Bingqi, Deputy Director of the 21st Century Education Research Institute in Beijing, told Legal Weekly that education authorities should more clearly explain to the public why certain majors need to impose a gender ratio in training professionals.

"As for majors of less popular foreign languages, instead of imposing a sex ratio during enrollment, universities should inform potential applicants of gender-selective labor market demands beforehand and allow them to make decisions themselves," he suggested.

Farewell to Shantytowns

by Wang Hairong

Although aging, Huo Qingguo is very content with her life, which was dramatically changed by a shantytown renovation project

launched by the Beijing Municipal Government.

Not long ago, Huo moved into a new

apartment in Shimenyong Residential Community in Mentougou District, Beijing's western suburb. Her new home is four times the size of the old bungalow in which Huo's family had lived for more than two decades. In addition, the community has many public facilities close by, including a supermarket, a kindergarten and a primary school. Residents have also formed groups that meet regularly to engage in singing, dancing, fashion shows and other forms of entertainment and socializing.

"I don't want anything more than this. I just want to cherish life," Huo said.

Mentougou was once one of the five largest hard coal production areas in China. The district had many coal and limestone mines ranging from small to large. Since 2004, the district government has shut down 270 coal mines and many other polluting enterprises such as cement production plants in the region.

After the mines were closed up, many dilapidated houses built in the 1950s and 60s still stood there, among which was Huo's tiny bungalow of only 20 square meters. About 85,000 miners and farmers from 31,000 households were living in an area of waste from coal mining spanning 7 square km in Mentougou.

Due to land subsidence, the area was hazardous and not suitable for living. Pang Chengzhu, a retired coalminer, used to reside there. He said that walls in his room cracked because of slow sinking land there, which was



Huo Weiguo, a former shantytown resident in Beijing's Mentougou District cleans her new home

caused by abandoned coalmines. Pang's family worried about their safety constantly.

The renovation project was started in Mentougou during 2009 and aimed to build apartment buildings with a total area of 2 million square meters within three years. Shantytown residents would be moved away from the wasteland around abandoned mines and into new residential quarters. By the end of 2012, 8,500 apartments had been given to relocated families.

Huo's bungalow was torn down. As compensation, her family was offered an apartment of about 60 square meters and 90,000 yuan (\$14,754). Huo chose to decline the cash compensation for an additional 20 square meters of living space.

Huge Benefits

Shantytown renovation projects have boosted the confidence of low-income residents, and enabled them to live a more dignified life, said Qi Ji, Vice Minister of

Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

Previously, shantytown resident conversations with one another were often about negative topics, such as leaks in the roof, but nowadays—after moving into new homes—they are so happy that they are inviting all their friends to visit, Qi added.

Shantytown renovation pertains to both people's livelihood and development, said Premier Li Keqiang during a tour of Beiliang shantytown area in Baotou City, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, in February.

Li said that shantytown renovation is able to significantly boost domestic demand while shrinking the income gap. Cities should not have high-rise apartment complexes on one side and shantytowns on the other. "If this disparity is not eliminated, the quality of urbanization will be compromised," he added.

In addition, shantytown renovation can also have an environmental benefit. Premier Li said that the effort is effective in lowering coal consumption and in turn reduce pollution, as shantytown residents often burn coal for cooking and heating.

In recent years, shantytown renovation projects have fundamentally changed living conditions among tens of thousands of people from more than 12 million households all over the country. Li called on local governments to launch additional shantytown renovation projects.

At an executive meeting of the State Council, China's cabinet, on June 26, it was decided that more

shantytowns on industrial, mining, forest and land reclamation sites across the country should be renovated within the next five years, and these plans are expected to benefit 10 million households.

In the next five years, Beijing is to invest 500 billion yuan (\$81.49 billion) in renovating 527 shantytowns in downtown areas, according to the Beijing Municipal Committee of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. This is expected to benefit 700,000 residents in 230,000 households.

Renovation of about 90 of these shantytowns will start this year, said Ye Xiangzhong, an official with the Beijing Housing Guaranteeing Office.

Overcoming Obstacles

Although shantytown renovation is a positive thing, the process is very complicated, Qi said. Renovation projects involve the relocation and compensation of shantytown residents. The process also tends to see disputes between real estate developers



Residents in Shimenyang Residential Community in Beijing's Mentougou District gather to play traditional music .

and local residents.

Some residents are reluctant to move because they do not want to be relocated to somewhere faraway or because they are not satisfied with the compensation. Some even demand additional benefits unrelated to housing.

Qi said that resident needs should be satisfied so long as they are reasonable. He also pledged that there will be continued efforts to keep the demolition process open and fair, and allow residents to learn about and participate in the entire process.

To prevent disputes, the Beijing Municipal Government stipulated that a renovation project will only be launched with the consent of at least 90 percent of involved residents.

Vice Mayor Chen Gang said that the city has produced uniform compensation standards and procedures. While the city will patiently explain policies and timely solve disputes, Chen said that for the small number of “nail households,” those that refuse to relocate and ask for exorbitantly high compensation, the authority will expropriate their housing according to law.

Chen said that the city will try its best to settle residents in or near their previous communities, while those residents who must be relocated to other areas to reduce population density will be placed in areas with convenient rail transit systems as well as good education and medical facilities.

Another key issue facing renovation projects is funding. At the State Council executive meeting on June 26, the Central Government decided to increase financial support for shantytown renovation projects in the next five years, and local governments are required to meet the new standards.

Financial institutions were called upon to provide more loans to such projects. Similarly, the government has encouraged private investment in shantytown renovation projects. Eligible companies are allowed to issue corporate debentures or medium-term notes for such projects. Companies that invest in government-initiated shantytown renovation can have the investment deducted from their taxable income.

In the next five years, a total of 500 billion (\$82 billion) will be invested in renovating shantytowns in Beijing—including government investment, bank loans and funds raised from other sources, according to the Beijing Housing Guarantee Office. It also said that these projects will produce land available for commercial property development, and proceeds from selling such land will be used to finance shanty renovation.

With land in Beijing’s center being such a scarce resource, it is getting more and more expensive. On September 4, a plot near Beijing’s East Third Ring Road was sold for more than 73,000 yuan (\$11,928) per square meter of the proposed construction during a land auction.

“The future property sale price is estimated at 150,000 yuan (24,510) per square meter,” Zhang Dawei, Director of Centaline Property’s research center, told Xinhua News Agency.

Shantytown renovation projects will eventually be financed primarily by land sales, said Beijing-based weekly business publication *The Economic Observer*, citing an anonymous investment and financing advisor of the Beijing Municipal Government.

V. TIBET TODAY

Development and Progress of Tibet

Beijing, Oct. 22 (Xinhua) — The Chinese government on Tuesday issued a white paper on west China's Tibet Autonomous Region, detailing its comprehensive development and rapid progress over the past 60-plus years.

"The development and progress in modern Tibet results from the innate logic of its social and historical environment, and has its roots in China's progress in a larger context," says the white paper, released by the Information Office of the State Council under the title "Development and Progress of Tibet."

Describing the region prior to the 1950s "as dark and backward as medieval Europe," the white paper notes in the foreword that Tibet was a society of feudal serfdom under theocratic rule, a society characterized by a combination of political and religious powers.

According to the white paper, after a series of key historical stages including peaceful liberation, democratic reform, the establishment of the autonomous region and the reform and opening-up drive, the Tibetan people have gained freedom, equality and dignity, and are fully enjoying the fruits of modern civilization.

With six chapters, the white paper elaborates Tibet's development over the past six decades in the fields of economy, people's livelihoods, political systems, cultural preservation, religious freedom and environmental protection, among others.

Figures from the white paper show that the per capita net income of farmers and herdsmen in Tibet had maintained double-

digit growth for 10 consecutive years, reaching 5,719 yuan (944 U.S. dollars) in 2012. The per capita disposable income of urban dwellers in the region was 18,028 yuan.

Also, the gross regional product of the area rocketed from 129 million yuan in 1951 to 70.1 billion last year, marking an annual growth of 8.5 percent on average.

From 1952 to 2012, the central government appropriated 454.34 billion yuan to Tibet as financial subsidies, taking up 96 percent of the accumulated fiscal expenditures of the local government since it was founded.

Meanwhile, under a "pairing-up" support program launched by the central government in 1994, various provinces, municipalities, central government departments and major state-owned enterprises have provided personnel, materials, financial and technological support to Tibet.

In addition to economic progress, the central government pays great attention to protecting the Tibetan language and ensuring local religious activities.

By the end of 2012, there were 282,914 primary school pupils and 177,981 middle school students receiving bilingual education — with Tibetan as the principal language — accounting for 96.88 percent and 90.63 percent of the total respectively in Tibet, it says.

"Traditional religious activities such as scripture learning and debate, degree promotion, initiation into monkhood or nunhood, abhisheka (empowerment ceremony) and self-cultivation are held on a regular basis," it says.

So far, more than 40 incarnated living Buddhas have been confirmed through traditional religious rituals and historical conventions.

“However, a handful of people just turn a blind eye to the facts, and attack and deny Tibet’s development path and modernization drive that people of all ethnic groups strive for,” the white paper reads in the concluding remarks, noting the separatist activities of the 14th Dalai Lama and his clique in exile.

The white paper says that there are others who distort the past and present of Tibet due to their ideological bias or out of consideration for their self interests, and they created a “Shangri-La” myth, wishing to keep Tibet in a backward primitive state forever.

According to the white paper, Tibet’s

progress so far has proved that its local people and the people of the rest of the world have equal rights to enjoy the achievements of modern civilization, to improve the quality of life and to choose their own way of life.

“The profound and unprecedented changes in Tibet over the past 60 years have been consequently realized through the establishment and progress of the political, economic, social and cultural systems of the nation as a whole,” the white paper says.

“At present, people of all ethnic groups in Tibet and in the rest of the country are making combined efforts in fighting for the great renewal of the Chinese nation... in the course of this, the Tibet Autonomous Region will have a better future,” it added.

Panchen Lama Concludes Religious Activities in Tibet

Xigaze, Tibet, Oct. 14 (Xinhua) — The 11th Panchen Lama, Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu, concluded his religious activities in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region on Monday, said sources with the regional government.

The 23-year-old Panchen Lama, one of the two most revered living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism, has performed religious rituals, including sutra interpretations and giving blessings, for thousands of Tibetan Buddhists at several monasteries in the region since August 27.



The 11th Panchen Lama, Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu (R, front), is warmly sent off by monks in Xigaze, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on Oct. 14, 2013. The 11th Panchen Lama concluded his religious activities in Tibet and returned to Beijing on Monday. (Xinhua/Chogo)

The Panchen Lama lived in seclusion at the Zhaxi Lhunbo Lamasery in Xigaze Prefecture, the traditional residence of reincarnated Panchen Lamas, from Sept. 12 to Oct. 7.

As a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee, China's top political advisory body, the Panchen Lama also held discussions with members of Tibetan religious circles and visited local farmers and schools to gather their opinions

on social and religious issues.

The 11th Panchen Lama was born in February 1990 in Lhari County, in northern Tibet's Nagqu Prefecture.

He was chosen as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama in November 1995 after a lot-drawing ceremony among three candidates in the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa.

The Panchen Lama, a spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, also serves as vice president of the Buddhist Association of China.

Tibetan Language Software Changes Life of Tibetans

by Karen Lin

Oct. 14 (China Tibet Online) — Lahm, a Tibetan student of Tibet University, bought her parents a mobile phone equipped with Tibetan language software.

"My parents can send messages to me in Tibetan language when they miss me," said Lahm delightedly.

Nowadays, mobile phones installed with Tibetan language software were widespread in the markets, which met the demands of most Tibetan people.

"My parents don't know Chinese pinyin, and the mobile phone with Tibetan input method brings them great convenience," Lahm added.

Ngodrup, vice president of Tibet University, said Gangjie Tibetan input method researched by Tibetan Information Technology Research Center of Tibet University has greatly enhanced the popularity of mobile phones among Tibetan people. Statistics show that more than 70%

Tibetan people use the Gangjie Tibetan input method in their mobile phones.

Besides, since some Tibetan people were illiterates who could only speak Tibetan language, Tibet University has been developing the Tibetan speech recognition system.

"People who cannot write the Tibetan words can pronounce the text by means of the speech recognition system and send voice messages," said Ngodrup.

With the development of Tibetan software, many ancient documents and books in Tibetan language have gotten well protected on account of the digitization technology.

In the Sera Monastery of Lhasa, over ten working staffs who have rich Tibetan knowledge have carried out the digital acquisition of the ancient handwritten books of Tibetan Buddhism which were in danger of dying out.

Gyacai Qiangba, a monk of Sera Monastery, said, "We are gratified that the technology and Tibetan language software help keep the damaged Buddhism books."

At present, the Tibetan Information Technology Research Center of Tibet University is seeking cooperation with inland scientific and technical companies to research

the Tibetan, Chinese and English trilingual intelligent teaching system to arouse students' interest in learning Tibetan language.

By virtue of informatization, Tibetan language is preserved and developed in a better way.

Chinese Social Network Promotes Tibetan Culture

Lhasa, Aug. 6 (Xinhua) — Logging into a Tibetan-English bilingual language learning account on Wechat is a daily routine for Yang Xin, a junior English major from University of Tibet.

"Please type number 94 to get the content of today's course," it reads on Shengdimeiju (Beautiful sentences on the holy land), a language learning application on the popular mobile messaging service.

Three audio messages on how to express bad people or bad things in Tibetan and English, with a length of 59, 57 and 49 seconds respectively, then appear on Yang's cell phone.

"Shengdimeiju is a wonderful application. I can learn Tibetan and English at the same time," said Yang.

"If I have a question, I can simply type it on the phone and a teacher will answer it soon," he said.

The WhatsApp-like Wechat, operated by China's largest Internet company Tencent, had 490 million users by the end of June since its launch in early 2011, according to a Ministry of Industry and Information Technology report.

"Official accounts" is a special Wechat feature that can be used by institutions,

companies and individuals to interact with their followers.

Shengdimeiju founder, Lop Chamdoi, 33, hopes the application will give more people the opportunity to learn the Tibetan language in the mobile Internet era.

Chamdoi, an English-major graduate from Shaanxi Normal University, has set up a private Tibetan-English language training center in the regional capital of Lhasa. He launched the Shengdimeiju application in April.

Besides Shengdimeiju, a number of official accounts on Wechat, featuring Tibetan language learning, tourism and news have become new channels for people to better understand the plateau region.

Sina Weibo, a twitter-like microblogging service with more than 500 million users, is another major Chinese online platform promoting Tibetan culture.

Tibet Online, a government-run website, has a presence on both Wechat and Weibo. It has 758,331 followers on Sina Weibo as of Tuesday, providing information on Tibetan buddhism, tourism, literature, festivals, plateau diseases and even a list of bars.

Tang Xiaoshuang, a sophomore tourist

from South China University of Technology, did not think he could access the Internet in Tibet before he went there to travel.

“From Nyingchi to Lhasa and Ngari, I share my photos on the way with my friends through Wechat and Weibo,” said Tang.

Tibet, with a population of more than three million, had 1.76 million Internet users and 2.26 million mobile phone users by the end of May, according to the regional communication management bureau.

Among the mobile phone users, many have smartphones who can easily access the Internet.

Gunsang Jigme, a herdsman from Biru

County, spent 3,000 yuan (486 U.S. dollars) buying a HTC smartphone at a China Telecom service center in Lhasa.

A member of staff downloaded Wechat for him.

“My old cellphone could not download such applications,” said Jigme. “I made some money selling caterpillar fungus this year and I’d like to share my life moments with my friends as they do.”

Digging and selling the fungus, a rare plant native to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and believed to be a medicinal cure-all, can be a lucrative trade.

Tibet's First Western Restaurant Makes National Day International

Lhasa, Oct. 3 (Xinhua) — How does it feel to grab a bite of traditional Western food during China’s National Day holiday in Tibet? Foreign visitors and local Tibetans may have different answers.

“The steak served here tastes just like home,” said U.S. visitor Gabe Miller after eating at Dunya, Lhasa’s first Western restaurant.

Meanwhile, 32-year-old local Tibetan diner Sonam Tashi said of his experience, “It’s our mother country’s birthday — the unique combination of Western cuisine and China’s patriotic flavor makes me feel very special.”

Their comments point to the increasing international influences upon Tibet and how these play out around National Day in a lively coming-together of cultures, especially in places like Dunya, just a few minutes’ walk from the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple.

Although Dunya first opened in 1999, hungry folk of all nationalities have had more reason to rush there lately as this is a watershed year for the business. Its Dutch owner, Rene Schrama, is considering going back to the Netherlands and giving more responsibility to local staff in running the restaurant.

The word Dunya means “the world” in a dozen languages such as Arabic, Turkish, Hindi, Malay and Uzbek, and the restaurant itself is run by Schrama as well as people from China and the United States — a truly international team.

“Besides traditional Western dishes, we have also introduced Nepalese and Indian food,” Schrama explained, while also recommending Dunya’s signature “yak meat burger” and “fried yak meat momo” to his guests.

“In addition to more guests from Western countries, we are happy to serve an increasing number of local Tibetans. We offer discounts on some dishes for National Day, and all the seats have been booked up during the Golden Week of the National Day holiday,” added the Dutchman, who also runs a hotel and a travel agency in Lhasa with his wife.

Food and guests are not the only blends of culture that take place in Dunya, as no one could overlook its unique interior decoration featuring both Tibetan painted scrolls and Western murals.

Mr. and Mrs. Schrama have lived in Tibet for 14 years, and their initial desire to create a place that was both Tibetan and “home” has been realized. It is an apt time for them to plan a return home as their kids are old enough to attend school.

However, they promise “the balcony of

Dunya will continue to witness the changes that happen to the people of this city.”

“Dunya has grown up as the city has developed — welcoming friends from all over the world and hitting the recommendation list of travel guidebooks,” according to Tsewang, a Tibetan lady who has been working in the restaurant for over a decade.

“I was born in a remote village and have never learned how to read and write, but people here are all good teachers,” said Tsewang, who now speaks fluent English.

Mr. and Mrs. Schrama already return to their home country every winter as it is the tourist off-season in Tibet, and they leave the restaurant to Tsewang.

“No one would like to close Dunya — even in winter, and they place their full trust in me,” she said.

Looking for the White-Lipped Deer

Text & Photo by Mao Shiping

The white-lipped deer lives on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. As a creature of strength and cunning, it is both mighty and meek. Also known as “Shawa Quxa” by Tibetan people, the white-lipped deer has a large body, similar to a red deer or sambar. As a unique species on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, it has white fur around its lips and on its jaw, hence the name.

In October of 2011, I was assigned to work in a remote place, a village of the Sog County in Northeast Tibet. The local villagers told me that there were a lot of “Sha” (local Tibetans collective word for deer) in their summer pasture. Driven by my curiosity to figure out



the truth and years experience in wild life protection, I set out to look for the white-lipped deer. Finally the journey proved to be a chance for me to get more experience of the white-lipped deer at a short distance.

In Northeast Tibet, Sog is a county with the richest forest resources in the area of Nagqu. It is an important habitat for many nationally protected animals, such as the white-lipped deer, alpine musk deer, forest musk deer, river deer, snow leopard, brown bear, macaque, blue sheep, and goa. The white-lipped deer are mainly found around the villages of Shicham, Jamda and Gamu in the south. The adult female white-lipped deer stays apart from the male. They mate only in autumn from the end of September to the end of October. As the mating season is coming, the male and female deer will unite in the mating flock and move from a warm habitat to the wintering place. Autumn is also the time that people are most likely to see the white-lipped deer. To find the deer mostly alone, I carefully chose the days to start looking for



them.

On my first journey to look for the white-lipped deer, Lhapu, a villager who knows the local terrain well, accompanied me. Lhapu

guided us to Ganyogu where the white-lipped deer are likely to be moving around, intending to find the animal and take some pictures. Going forward along the rugged mountain path, we heard a brisk tweet at a short distance. We looked over and found a few birds foraging in the woods. Continuing to climb along the path, Lhapu was suddenly excited: "Look ahead, we'll get there soon!"; We were tired then, yet, Lhapu's words, like



an energy drink, refreshed us and we began to concentrate our minds to look around. Then, Lhapu said: "Look, there's some on the east slope." Upon these words, I took out my telescope to look around and immediately found a few white-lipped deer grazing where he pointed. The males and females were together. Disturbed by our voices the white-lipped deer (very alert by nature) started to scatter and run away. The males ran up the mountain, and the females ran down. They looked back from time to time as they ran. When assured it was safe, they gathered together again, grazing at ease. I took the time for some pictures of this precious mountain species, living in a cold, high altitude area. Though the photos are not clear because the distance is too great, the white-lipped deer

still impressed me a lot with the image of the males' strong figures, the females' easy demeanor and the fawns' cute naivety. This time, from a remote place, we successfully recorded nine white-lipped deer, including two males, six females and a fawn.

Influenced by me, Comrade Dawa Samdrup (who came to the station in the village with us) also wanted to see the white-lipped deer. A week later, on a fine morning, I set out to look for the animal once again. Having learned of the local terrain and the way to Ganyogu, I decided not to bother a villager to take us there. The path was as long and hard as before, but we were in a different mood this time. Humming Tibetan pop songs, we chatted about the things we had seen, heard and felt after we entered the forest zone. Unconsciously, we came to the place near where wild animals drink water, referred to as "the Valley of Life" by the local people. The valley was covered by mist and we couldn't see far, but we were able to hear some brisk tweeting. Sometimes, we could sense that animals were moving around. Most water in the brook in the valley had frozen. "The Valley of Life" was only a mountain away from our destination, so we hastened our steps towards Ganyogu. Having crossed a snow covered valley, we saw some local houses built for the convenience of herder in summer. At this moment, on vacant ground about 200 meters away from us, we found two adult female white-lipped deer. We hurried to take a few photos and moved forward. Suddenly, from a villager's house, 30 meters away, two deer ran out and another seven or eight moved in the nearby woods. Holding our breath, we lay quietly in a ditch, recording what we saw in various ways. We kept our

eyes on the male white-lipped deer. As it discovered us, it lifted its head howling, and in this way, it passed the message to its companions nearby that there were two "uninvited guests", and played the role as a leader. Finding us out of sight, it went on leading the females and fawns in grazing. We also found three to five females in a group and the playful fawns raised their heads to look at us. This journey looking for the white-lipped



deer made it possible for me to observe the deer at a short distance. In the woods, no more than one kilometer from Ganyogu, we recorded a total of 39 white-lipped deer (four males, and the others females or fawns).

The male white-lipped deer produce large antlers in abundance. The antler is a rare material used for Chinese medicine, so the male deer became the target of illegal hunters. Now, in Tibet, there has not a farm able to raise and breed the white-lipped deer by human labor. Almost all the antler used in Tibetan medicine is acquired by illegal hunting. Generally, the hunters take the opportunity to "bury a trap" along the route where the animals often frequent. Bigger antler can be also become art objects,

stimulating more deer hunting activities. Now, hunting has become the greatest threat to the survival of white-lipped deer. Also, the growing expanse of human activity is another reason that the number of white-lipped deer decreases. The deer live mainly in pastoral areas. However, in order to develop animal husbandry, the local people expand their range of production little by little, so the habitat where the white-lipped deer can move around continually lessens. The smaller habitat influences the animal's grazing a lot and causes food shortages, directly leading to a drop in the number of the white-lipped deer. What most makes us feel helpless is that the local villagers build houses in their summer pasture, the place where the white-lipped deer are active, for the convenience of herding and working in summer. Human activity interferes with the white-lipped deer's lifecycle and limits their sphere of activity. Nonetheless, we are grateful that since long ago, the local villagers have adhered to a customary ban on killing, thus making it possible for the species to survive and multiply in the area. Now, the white-lipped deer has been listed as a Nationally Preserved Animal, Level 1, and an Endangered Wild Animal. Though the deer is protected from hunting, some criminals driven by profits are still bold enough to risk prosecution in desperation. Killings happen now and then. Local villagers told us of a recent case: in September some outsiders came and hunted illegally. As the village committee got the news, they immediately organized the forest protection team to search for the criminals all around the mountain, yet they only found an iron wire trap set in the forest. The hunters had run away under the cover of the thick

woods.

On the way back, we recalled our delight in the wild animals, and in the meanwhile we realized that wild animals are necessary to nature. If there were no wild animals in the forests and mountains, the earth would lose all vitality, and the ecosystem will be incomplete. We, as human beings, shall not be selfish enough to deprive them of their right to survival; on the contrary, we should help and protect them, follow Nature's law and maintain biological diversity in the environment. Now, I remember George Shell, a famous American biologist and writer, has said in his work, *Good Ochotona Alpina*, "Cherish nature and you'll be rewarded but to harm nature is to harm your own life."

Tips: All year around, the white-lipped deer live in the mountainous woods and marshy highland grassland at an altitude of 3500 to 5100 meters, especially the belt along the timberline where they are most likely to be moving around. The males have antlers, and the females none. Their bare noses and lips are always surrounded by white fur, and there are bright spots on their buttocks. The white-lipped deer graze mainly on the grass and sedge, yet due to different habitats they may vary their diet. They prefer to live in groups, except during the breeding season when the males move around separately from the females. Usually, the animal comes out at dawn and dusk, and rests or ruminates in hidden places at most times of the day. In warm months, they inhabit areas of high altitude. As the temperature drops after September, they will migrate to lower altitudes.

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Reader's Opinion

Dear Readers,

Here is coming the end of the year 2013, in which we witnessed a stable growth of China-India relations. And we also made some improvement on *News From China*. Not long ago we received some sincerely and useful advice from you. We have adopted some of them, and some are actively being prepared. I hope to extend my thanks for your participation.

In order to repay your care to NFC, we are planning to hold a face-to-face activity in Chinese Embassy in India before the New Year, in which we can have an interaction with each other. Now we are soliciting your ideas and suggestions on the form of this activity. You can send us either by Fax (Press Office: 0091-11-26882024) or Email (newsfromchinadelhi@gmail.com).

Smt. Xie Liyan
Editor, *NEWS FROM CHINA*

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Beautiful China Came to India

A road show themed Discovering Beautiful China just concluded successfully in India. It was organized by China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) with highlights of Discovering Beautiful China Evening Event in Bangalore on 25th September, China-India Cultural Extravaganza in New Delhi on 28th September, and China Tourism Public Promotion in Select City Walk, New Delhi from 28-29 September. The Chinese delegates visiting India were tourism officials, executives, travel agents and professional cultural performers from different

well as the Indian tourism fraternity. India-China Friendship Association Karnataka Chapter, Travel Agents Association of India-Karnataka, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Society of Foreign Travel Operators (SFTO-India), etc., helped to make it a full success.

The bilateral travel and tourism traffic between China and India has been increasingly boosted in recent years. From January to July, 2013, the total visits from India to China were 399400, increasing 13.77% over the same period of last year; the direct



regions of China, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Guangxi, Shaanxi, etc.

This initiative of further taping the Indian tourist market and strengthening bilateral tourism exchange & cooperation has won great support from the Chinese Embassy in India, the Chinese Consulate-general in Mumbai, Chinese and Indian media as

visits from mainland China to India were 85,000, increasing 11.3% over the same period of last year.

This momentum is very encouraging, especially when we face the current global travel trends (the international arrivals increased only about 5% from January to July, 2013). The future of travel and tourism undertaking between China and India is very bright.



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